MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JANUARY 1982

Sudan

Meeting With Mubarak -- SUNA reported that President Ja'far Numayri arrived in Aswan on the morning of 27 January and immediately began talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Internal Situation -- Citing Beirut diplomatic sources, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that President Numayri and his aides foiled a coup attempt by a number of officers calling themselves the Sudanese unionist officers. Monitored Sudanese media have not mentioned any coup attempt. However, SUNA reported that President Numayri issued a decree retiring 22 army officers. According to a related MENA report, Numayri met again with senior officers on 26 January and the talks were expected to result in "important decisions," including the appointment of a new first vice president. JANA claimed that the authorities have begun a wide-scale campaign of arrests among army personnel and former members of the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU). Meanwhile, Omdurman radio noted that on 30 January President Numayri will address the newly formed popular committee, set up to review SSU laws and regulations.

Egypt

Foreign Relations -- MENA reported that in a statement published by the London TIMES, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said he hopes U.S.-Egyptian relations, which are already very close, will become even better. Emphasizing that the likely improvement in Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union will not affect U.S.-Egyptian relations, 'Ali said the return of Soviet experts to Egypt will be for a specific period during which they will install equipment contracted for before their expulsion.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH asserted that Egypt has been secretly negotiating with Libya "prior to the restoration of relations between the two countries." AS-SIYASAH claimed that a "senior Egyptian figure," who held an authoritative position during Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's presidency and who is close to the Libyans, is currently mediating to restore normal relations between Egypt and Libya. In a similar vein, KUNA reported that another Kuwaiti paper, AL-WATAN, said that Libya's intelligence chief has met secretly with President Mubarak.

Detainees Released -- MENA reported that the socialist prosecutor decided to release another 42 detainees, including some Muslim and Christian clergymen.

Further on Mubarak Speech -- In his speech to the National Democratic Party (NDP) Congress, broadcast live by Cairo radio, President Mubarak said the party must derive its qualification to lead the nation from a popular mandate and not from the regime's authority and power to exploit decisionmaking. Asserting that a rational intellectual dialogue and competition among various views will crystallize national unanimity, he said there will be no dictating of viewpoint or "terrorism of thought and idea."

Turning to the economy, he said the results of past policies must be objectively assessed and problems should be realistically tackled without concealing the facts from the people or making lavish promises. Noting that he has called on a group of economists to participate with the government in formulating its economic strategy, Mubarak said an economic conference will begin its work on 13 February. He also said the new 5-year plan should be integrated and practical and should ensure stability and continuity, maintaining the open-door policy and directing it in a way that will attract Arab and foreign capital into Egypt to modernize the economy without aggravating the "consumer phenomenon." Calling for equality of sacrifices, he asserted that it is impermissible for the benefits of economic policy to be confined to a special minority or for working people to assume unbearable burdens.

Israel

No-Confidence Motion Defeat -- By a vote of 55 to 52, with 13 MK's absent, the Knesset defeated a motion of no-confidence submitted by the Alignment, IDF radio reported.

Shamir on Autonomy, Egypt, Golan -- Jerusalem radio summarized an address by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Jerusalem Economic Club in which he said Israel proposed the autonomy not in order to be severed from the territories but to live in them peacefully with the Palestinian Arabs.

Shamir rejected the view that peace with Egypt cannot be maintained without an agreement on autonomy.

On 23 January the Swedish paper SVENSKA DAGBLADET published an interview with Shamir in which he referred to Syria's repeated refusal to negotiate with Israel and to a "very extreme" declaration by President Hafiz al-Asad, but added that "the real reasons" for applying Israel law to the Golan Heights was the fact that Israel had been determined for a long time not to withdraw from the area, and "since we will shortly be facing a situation in which all of our borders will be normalized, we decided to do the same with our border with Syria." Later in the interview Shamir said that Israel now views its previous line of demarcation with Syria as its border, and that there will be no discussions of border changes. When asked whether his statement applies even to minor adjustments that might be discussed in future negotiations, Shamir replied that despite Israel's past and present readiness to negotiate without preconditions, Syria does not want to negotiate with Israel but to conquer it militarily.

MA'ARIV on Haig, Autonomy -- Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit to Jerusalem and Cairo scheduled to begin today, MA'ARIV contended that this "utterly unnecessary" visit will not only fail to advance the talks but publicize their complete futility and demonstrate that it is impossible to reach an agreement on full autonomy either before or after April. MA'ARIV claimed that Egypt's stand that the model for autonomy must satisfy the Palestinians and the PLO is not an opening position that might be softened in the talks but a final position, since only a document acceptable to the Palestinians will serve Egypt as an admission ticket for returning to the Arab fold.

Bethlehem Mayor's Advertisement -- According to Jerusalem radio, Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj published an advertisement in east Jerusalem papers saying his statements on PLO-Israeli mutual recognition had been quoted imprecisely and out of context. He claimed that he sought to describe Israel as greedy for land and hostile to peace, noted that he had no intention of modifying his recognition of the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative and promised he would continue to obey PLO resolutions.

According to Beirut radio, Palestine National Council Chairman Khalid al-Fahum strongly criticized the statements by Frayj and Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawa that called for recognition of Israel. Al-Fahum said the statements are defeatist and totally contradict the Palestine national charter and the Palestinian people's unanimous refusal to recognize the Israeli occupation.

GCC

SPA reported that after the conclusion of the conference of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) defense ministers in Riyadh, Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said all conference resolutions were adopted unanimously, stressing that the Arab Gulf states are "one force." He denied the Gulf needs outside protection and asserted that the GCC defense ministers "found no gaps among them through which any enemy seeking to fish in troubled waters can infiltrate." Prince Sultan also said the conference decisions are secret because deeds should precede words.

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ARAB LEAGUE HEAD ON UN VOTE, ARAB UNITY PROBLEMS

NC221313 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 18-24 Jan 82 pp 36-43

[Interview by Lydia Georgi with Arab League Secretary General ChedliKlibi -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The secretary general of the Arab League, Chedli Klibi, said last week that the Arab countries would respond to the American veto of the Security Council resolution against Israel by taking measures against Washington which "will without a shadow of doubt be serious measures" with "unfavorable effects on Arab-American dealings and on the future of Arab-American relations."

Speaking to MONDAY MORNING in Beirut before the postponement of the Security Council vote on the resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, Klibi said an American veto was a vertual certainty and that it would demonstrate "Israeli control of American decision-making."

The Arabs, he said, had in the past refrained from taking measures against the U.S. because of "certain circumstances and possible justifications" of its blind support for Israel, "but now, I think the limit has been reached."

Appealing to the American people to "recognize the gravity" of their government's support of Israel in violation of international law and the American Constitution, the secretary general said: The American people must "realize that this behavior is jeopardizing their interests and threatening Arab-American friendship; that this behavior will force the Arab countries to take measures."

Refusing to say what the measures would be, he said that "the Arab League Council, which will meet after the deliberations of the Security Council end, will decide what measures and positions will be taken. But for now, we cannot but warn that these measures will without a shadow of doubt be serious measures which will have unfavorable effects on Arab-American dealings and on the future of Arab-American relations.... We believe these positions will not be merely theoretical."

He added that more important than any measures the Arabs might take against the U.S. "is the fact that the friendship between the Arab peoples and the American people is in danger.... More specifically the special relations between some Arab countries and America will without doubt be affected; they will be strained, and there is no doubt that what will happen to them will have unfavorable consequences."

The following is a translation of the full interview, which was conducted in Arabic:

[Question] Is it true that you stated in Ankara that the Arab summit conference will be held in May or June?

[Answer] I did not say the summit will be held in May or June. A journalist put the question to me, and I said the Arab countries are in no hurry. I said the Fes summit meetings were suspended on the understanding that the countries would be given time for more consultation to arrive at new bases on which all members of the league can agree -- not only concerning the Saudi (peace) plan, as some may imagine, but concerning a range of subjects which constitute what we call a strategy of joint Arab action. This, I said, might take several months, and the summit would not, at any rate, be held before May or June at the earliest. That does not mean that the date has been set or that I have information that the summit will be held this or that month.

[Question] But you still say that the summit will not be held before May or June, which makes one wonder whether there is a connection between the date of the summit and the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, which is scheduled for April.

[Answer] Not at all. There is no connection whatsoever between the two subjects. For the summit to resume its work, the important thing is to have full consultations on all subjects, in their generalities and their details, so that when we return to Fes, we will have reached agreement on all things in advance. The purpose of the summit then will be only to consecrate that agreement and announce it to Arab and international public opinion.

[Question] Is there any possibility that Egypt will be invited to attend the next summit?

[Answer] That is out of the question. How can we even think of such a thing? As long as the Israeli flag is flying in Cairo, we see no way that we can invite Egypt to take its place in the league. That is impossible.

[Question] In what circumstances would you visualize the return of Egypt to the Arab fold after the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai?

[Answer] We expect and we hope that Egypt will regain its status in the league and in the Arab world, but our conditions for Egypt's return are known. It is not enough to expect and hope. Egypt's return will become possible if there is a certain orientation -- an orientation which is known to us, to our Egyptian brothers and to Arab and international public opinion. If those conditions are met, Egypt's position will, as always, be in the vanguard, and its role will be a pioneering role.

It is our hope that Egypt will return at the earliest possible time, but we cannot speculate (as to when this will happen).

[Question] Do you believe that President Husni Mubarak is leaving the door open for Egypt's return to the Arab family? We notice, for instance, that he has not visited Israel....

[Answer] ...But he is expected to visit Israel before the withdrawal from Sinai. It has been announced that he will visit Israel in the second month of this year. That argument has been shot down.

I think it is advisable at this time not to talk much about the affairs of Egypt and to let the new Egyptian president act in accordance with what he regards to be Egypt's interest. God willing, he will not view Egypt's interests and the interests of the Arabs in general as two separate things. That is all we can say now.

[Question] Do you share the view that the recent Gulf tour by President Hafiz al-Asad is an indication that Syria is about to adopt the Saudi peace plan?

[Answer] Nothing has been said in official statements to indicate that.

[Question] But doesn't President al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia, despite the fact that it was aimed at restoring Arab solidarity to confront the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights, indicate the emergence of a certain rapprochement that might make Syria view Prince Fahd's plan more favorably?

[Answer] True, true. That is possible. In fact, President Hafiz al-Asad's tour has created a positive atmosphere in the region. This atmosphere may reflect on the current preparations for the resumption of the summit, and, no doubt, it may have a good effect on the discussion of the items that will be included in the agenda of the Fes summit.

However, we cannot as of now say that Syria's position, or Iraq's position, or the position of this or that country, has changed. I have no information to base such a statement on. But we hope that positions will evolve here and there to a point where all the Arabs can reach agreement on the basis of higher Arab interests and the credibility of the Arabs' international position. That is what we are looking for and are keen to achieve: an Arab position approved by all but still totally credible to international public opinion.

[Question] Will Prince Fahd's plan be the focus of the next summit's deliberations?

[Answer] The focus of the deliberations will be the major items on the summit's agenda, and that agenda has not changed. None of the items on the agenda has been dropped. The Saudi plan continues to occupy an important position on the agenda, and we believe it will receive considerable attention, along with the other items which, as I said before, constitute a general strategy of joint Arab action.

[Question] The Fes summit failed because of the Saudi plan. Do you believe the plan stands a better chance of being adopted in the next summit?

[Answer] The summit did not fail. It resorted to a method which is alien to Arab public opinion but is often used abroad.

The Saudi plan was discussed and the discussions did not lead to an agreement. That does not mean that the result was disagreement. Because no agreement was reached, the summit decided to suspend its proceedings temporarily, pending agreement on the various subjects, including the Saudi plan.

So there was no failure; there was a new method employed to continue discussions in a different framework. That is what is happening now. Consultations among the Arab countries are under way -- through visits like the visit of President Hafiz al-Asad, or through other meetings, or through the contemplation of a new basis for agreement by some countries, like the countries of the Gulf and the Maghreb (northwest Africa).

This, then, is a new trend in Arab action -- not failure. We have not reached a point of disagreement on the Saudi plan. The point we have reached is lack of agreement, which is totally different from disagreement. We agreed to continue consultations towards agreement. This is a new way which we can describe as dialectical and which involves the time element, a basic element in politics and in all human affairs. If we cannot reach agreement now, we may be able to arrive at a different formula that will make agreement possible in a month, three months, five months. In other words, the time element is a basic one, and it is an element that we ignored in the past preferring to agree on the spot and say so or disagreement or bring the curtain down on it, hiding our differences. This time, we chose another way which I believe is more fruitful and more credible as far as Arab and international public opinion is concerned.

But because it is a new approach, it took the Arabs and even the foreigners by surprise, and both started talking about the failure of the Fes summit.

The Fes summit was not a failure. I believe time will prove that it was one of the most important Arab summits.

[Question] It seems certain that the United States will veto the proposed Security Council resolution calling for sanction against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights. What would the Arab response be to an American veto, and what would the Arabs do if Britain and France also vetoed the resolution?

[Answer] We don't believe France will use its veto. I doubt that even Britain will follow the American veto.

As for America's use of its veto, it clearly shows Israeli control of American decision-making. Because America's interests lie in supporting international law, as dictated by all moral values, justice and the principles of the American Constitution. But we feel that America's standards and criteria vary with the situation and with the source of aggression and violations. Where Poland is concerned, we find America demanding sanctions and pressuring its friends in Europe to apply sanctions. But when Israel undertakes various kinds of aggression -- against Tammuz (the Iraqi nuclear reactor), against Beirut, against Jerusalem, against the Golan -- the most we can get from America is a verbal condemnation.

Words are words, words, words, and they must be followed by a decision, by practical measures. That is where we collide with the American veto. That is the weak point in American policy:

It wants to have stature in the Arab East and good relations with the Arab countries, but it behaves as if it is a supporter of Israeli aggression. This is a great contradiction which will damage America's interests and its relationship with the Arab countries with which it now has cordial relations or relations of cooperation or relations that can be evolved in a positive manner.

Therefore, we cannot but draw the attention of the American people, which we consider a friendly people, to the danger posed by the policy being followed by American officials under Zionist pressure, under the pressure of the Zionist lobbies in America which have revealed that the majority of American Jews are behaving as if they have an American allegiance and an Israeli allegiance. We address ourselves to American public opinion, appealing to the American people to recognize the gravity of this behavior and to realize that this behavior is jeopardizing their interests and threatening Arab-American friendship; that this behavior will force the Arab countries to take measures.

We cannot tell at this time what these measures will be. The Arab League Council, which will meet after the deliberations of the Security Council end, will decide what measures and positions will be taken. But for now, we cannot but warn that these measures will without a shadow of doubt be serious measures which will have unfavorable effects on Arab-American dealings and on the future of Arab-American relations.

[Question] Do you really expect the Arab League Council to decide on measures against the U.S. this time, keeping in mind that America has been supporting hostile Isreali actions for a long time without the Arabs once taking measures against it?

[Answer] There were various circumstances and possible justifications in the past, and every time we thought America would understand, that the truth would dawn on it.

But now, I think the limit has been reached. When an American official says that American policy is determined by what the American Government considers to be in America's interest and not by the principles of justice, of international law and of international morals... the truth is that this behavior leaves the Arabs no room for doubt or hesitation.

We still want to believe that the American officials will come back to their senses and will not take the serious step of vetoing the sanctions resolution, but reality indicates that the American decision has been taken and that the veto will be used against any sanctions resolution. I believe that the Arab countries will learn what they must learn from this, and the facts will force them to take a number of positions which will be decided by the Arab League Council, and we believe that these positions will not be merely theoretical.

[Question] Does that mean that economic measures are being considered?

[Answer] I cannot say anything now. The Arab League Council will make the final decisions.

But more serious than the economic measures is the fact the friendship between the Arab peoples and the American people is in danger, and this will reflect on the relations of the Arab states with the United States. More specifically, the special relations between some Arab countries and America will, without doubt, be affected; they will be strained, and there is no doubt that what will happen to them will have unfavorable consequences.

[Question] When the Arab summit is held -- and especially if it is held at the beginning of the summer -- is there any chance that the Arabs will broach the subject of the Lebanese presidency?

[Answer] I do not interfere in Lebanon's internal affairs in any way, and no Arab must be involved as a party in your internal affairs. We try to restore national accord, but you are the ones to determine your internal options.

[Question] But Arab presence and influence in Lebanon are obvious, and the Lebanese know that the Arabs have always had a say in the election of their president....

[Answer] Impossible! That is unacceptable, logically and practically. You are an Arab people with your own sovereignty, and it is up to you to choose the president that suits your circumstances. No other Arab has anything to do with your internal options.

[Question] Do you share the fears sometimes being expressed about the possibility of Lebanon being partitioned and two presidents being elected next summer in the event that no agreement can be reached on the president?

[Answer] If no agreement can be reached on the president, the incumbent president remains in office; his term is extended. But we do not interfere in these matters. We do not go into any question which deals with the subject of the presidency in any way.

[Question] What will the Arab response be to the participation of some European countries in the peace-keeping force in Sinai?

[Answer] The Arab countries have expressed their opposition to this participation and I myself have relayed this opposition to French President Mitterrand. President Mitterrand confessed that this participation was unnecessary. He had approved it, but in his view it was not so important and did not constitute approval, of a continuation of the Camp David agreements. And the French foreign minister declared recently that in his opinion the Camp David agreements were over, that they will have given all they can give with the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, and that they must be replaced by something which differs totally from the bases on which those agreements were built. This means that France now believes that the basic problem is the question of the Palestinian people and that the Palestinian people must be enabled to build their own state on their national soil.

So developments have overtaken the question of (European) participation (in the Sinai force), and that subject has become part of history, although Arab opposition to it is categorical and clear.

[Question] But that opposition does not go beyong opposition in principle?

[Answer] In our international relations, and especially in our relations with our European friends, we distinguish between the important and the more important.

It is true that the participation question is important, that we opposed and condemned participation and tried to dissuade France from participating. We were not able to, but we must not put our relations with France and Europe in the balance on this matter. If France can forge ahead with us in the right direction and work toward changing the direction of American policy in the Arab East, we will continue to cooperate with the European countries and we will continue our dialogue with them.

[Question] But is this hope in France justified, considering what Mr Cheysson said in Israel about there being no European role in the Middle East?

[Answer] That statement was withdrawn by the minister and by the French president himself. Directly after Cheysson's visit to Israel, I met President Mitterrand and expressed to him the Arabs' resentment of this attitude. I understood from him that he understands our resentment, that he is thinking in terms of different French positions on the East, and that he is becoming convinced of the need to play a positive role in the search for peace in the Arab East. I consider this to be a positive development.

In other words, our treatment of our friends in the world must not be determined by their past positions. If those positions can be evolved, we evolve with them. We must not be rigid and ossified in our opposition just because so-and-so said something that angered us. If it is possible for us to influence those positions and develop them in our favor, we do so. And I believe that, thanks to joint action by all the Arab countries, the French position is evolving in a positive direction.

[Question] Do you have any plans to meet Mr Leo Tindemans (foreign minister of Belgium and current president of the EEC Council) in the near future?

[Answer] Not in the near future. We will pay an official visit to Belgium and have discussions with the officials there, but I cannot tell when at this time.

[Question] What has hampered the implementation of the Arab Follow-up Committee's resolutions so far, and what do you expect the committee to achieve in its January 18 meeting?

[Answer] I don't agree with the first part of your question -- "What has hampered...." I don't believe the work of the Follow-up Committee has been hampered. The Follow-up Committee has met regularly and on schedule, and it has done good work every time.

But the problem is difficult, complicated, not so easy to settle. To be more accurate, your question should refer to the complexity of the Lebanese problem and Lebanon's conditions and to the difficulty of settling the matter as quickly as Lebanese and Arab public opinion appears to expect.

But I believe that the Follow-up Committee has done some serious work and that it is continuing its efforts, albeit at a pace which may appear slow to public opinion. However, my opinion is that firm steps are better than haste which does not produce sound results.

[Question] Judging by your own knowledge of the Lebanese situation, do you believe national dialogue is possible at this time?

[Answer] I believe dialogue is possible because all parties are yearning for dialogue, and we sensed this in our meetings with them. I believe that the Lebanese nature itself makes all parties tend towards dialogue. Furthermore, there is no way to settle the political problems without dialogue, so even if some parties don't want it or are not ready for it, dialogue is dictated on everyone. There is no alternative to it. We must launch a cordial, sober, objective dialogue to rebuild the brotherhood among the Lebanese families and restore Lebanon's political and social health.

[Question] When will the proposed Arab subcommittee be formed to prepare a joint Arab strategy on south Lebanon?

[Answer] If our suggestions meet with the approval of the (Lebanese) Government, we will immediately commence to implement the Fes resolutions on this subject, and I believe this will happen not later than the first week of February.

[Question] You believe that the strategy committee will be formed by February at the latest?

[Answer] I believe that it will begin its work in the early days of February.

[Question] Do you think the committee will be able to draw up an applicable, effective strategy, and that the Arabs can apply a joint strategy at this time?

[Answer] I believe that this matter must be looked into calmly and soberly. We will look into the duties that are required of this or that party or member, and I believe that if matters are adequately clarified, everyone has good intentions and we can arrive at positive results.

[Question] Is the Arab League playing any role in the efforts to end the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Answer] We would have liked to play a role, but since this is a war between an Arab country and a non-Arab country, the Arab League has no means of intervention. However, we do stress the need to end this war in our contacts with the various countries that can intervene, like Yugoslavia and Turkey. The secretary general seizes every opportunity that arises to focus on this subject in discussions with the countries that have the ability to intervene.

Most recently, I spoke about this subject at length with the Turkish officials, emphasizing that Turkey must play a special role in the attempts to end this war, because, as I told them, this war concerns not only Iraq and Iran but all the countries of the region, including Turkey.

[Question] After the Fes summit, the Arabs seem to be divided into a Gulf Cooperation Council, a Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the rest of the Arab countries, with Egypt on the outside and countless bilateral differences among the various Arab states. Given this situation, how hopeful are you that Arab solidarity can be restored?

[Answer] I don't agree with you in your division of the Arabs. The Gulf Council groups six countries, but that is not division. The Arab League Charter states that any grouping or clustering of Arab countries can contribute to joint Arab action, and it encourages such groupings. I wish other countries would do what the Gulf states did.

In fact, it is possible that the Maghreb states will follow in the Gulf's footsteps at some time in the future. If the proper atmosphere is obtained and if the Sahara problem is completely settled, I believe that Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and perhaps Mauritania and Libya, will form something similar to the Gulf Council.

There is nothing ominous or disturbing about that, and such moves cannot in any circumstances be described as divisive or isolationist.

The same applies to the steadfastness front. There is no division involved there. After the (1978) Baghdad summit, some states considered that the minimum level agreed upon in that summit was not enough and that some countries could go further, so they tried to do so, with no hostility towards the other countries.

Those impressions of division come to us from abroad; they are imported; they are the foreign press view of us, and we must guard against them. It is true that we don't always agree, and it is futile to try to hide that from the world, but what is true of us is true of all other parts of the world. Are the European states in agreement on all subjects? They have differences as we do. France and Spain have differences similar to Syrian-Jordanaian differences, for instance.

[Question] But aren't we now in difficult times that do not allow....

[Answer] We are always in difficult times. Have you ever heard an Arab speaker make a speech without saying: "We are going through difficult times?" You are young, but I have been hearing: "We are going through difficult times" for the past 30 years.

[Question] I am talking about Israel annexing the Golan Heights and finding itself faced by a disintegrated and ineffectual Arab world.

[Answer] No, it finds itself faced by a new solidarity. It has created the need for a new solidarity; indeed, it has created the new solidarity. President Hafiz al-Asad, in his tour, made use of this new element -- the annexation of the Golan -- and he found a positive response from all the countries he visited. Arab brotherhood and solidarity exist naturally, but also because of this new confrontation with Israel.

So it is not true that the Arab countries do not feel the need for solidarity. It is just that the various states have their own domestic problems, regional problems, problems with their neighbors. And it is no little thing that despite all these problems, you still find this great patience and capacity for joint action.

[Question] You seem to be optimistic about the possibility of restoring Arab solidarity.

[Answer] I don't say I'm optimistic, but I'm not pessimistic. Some foreign analysts have the idea that the Arab states are always at loggerheads, always divided, never capable of serious joint action. That is not true. That is propaganda spread by the Zionists in an attempt to undermine the stature of the Arab countries in America's eyes, in the eyes of the European countries, in the eyes of international public opinion. We must not fall into that trap ourselves.

We have our problems and differences like other countries, but in spite of that we can, like other countries, achieve joint action -- at the minimum level, perhaps, but the minimum level is no small thing. We must maintain it and develop it.

[Question] But you believe that we still need several months to get the Arab countries together in a summit conference?

[Answer] One of my major aims in the present tour is to acquaint myself with the views of the Arab states on this matter and see whether new stances have developed and new ideas have matured that might draw positions closer together and render solidarity stronger.

At the end of this tour, I will evaluate the general Arab situation and decide whether the foreign ministers can be invited to meet. I will need two to three weeks to complete my tour and clarify the situation.

'ARAFAT, OTHERS CONFER WITH SOVIET DELEGATION

NC230903 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0645 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received the Soviet Communist Party delegation currently visiting Lebanon under Comrade (Krol Protenskiy), deputy director of international relations in the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet delegation also includes Comrades (Yuriy Gradonov) and (Shlaf Matson) and the minister plenipotentiary of the Soviet Embassy in Beirut, Comrade (Yuriy Soskilov).

Attending the meeting on the Palestinian and Lebanese National Movement sides were Brothers Muhsin Ibrahim, executive secretary general of the Lebanese National Movement Central Political Council; Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian popular struggle front; Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddum], chairman of the PLO Political Department; Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee members; Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, members of the PLO Executive Committee; Nadim 'Abd as-Samad, the Lebanese Communist Party Politburo member; Abu Ja'far, director of the PLO Political Department; and Ahmad 'Abd ar-Rahman, chief editor of the magazine FILASTIN ATH-THAWRAH.

During the meeting, the conferees discussed the current situation and developments at the international, Arab and local levels, particularly the U.S. imperialist-Zionist threats and the aggressive strategic cooperation between them, their threats against the Palestinian, Lebanese peoples and Arab nation through the Zionist military concentrations in southern Lebanon and the daily military provocations represented by Israeli military overflights in Lebanese airspace, Israeli gunboat patrols in Lebanese territorial waters and the latest Zionist decision to annex the Syrian Golan Heights.

Both sides praised the firm relations of struggle existing between the Soviet Union and the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement and the joint struggle between the Soviet people and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against U.S. imperialist-Zionist conspiracies.

Brother Command Abu 'Ammar returned to Beirut yesterday following successful visits to the PDRY and the YAR during which he held official talks with Presidents 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the most important current developments in the Arab arena following the Zionist enemy's decision annexing the occupied Golan and the Zionist military threats against the Palestinian revolution.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC DEFENSE MINISTERS CONCLUDE CONFERENCE WORK

LD261512 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1405 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA) -- The ministers of defense of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states concluded the work of their first conference at 1345 this afternoon.

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz delivered a speech in which he announced that the work of the conference had concluded and thanked God for the positive results achieved. He expressed the hope that the outcome will benefit the Arab nation. His royal highness then asked His Highness Shaykh Salim as-Sabah, the Kuwait minister of defense, to speak.

Speaking for the delegations participating in the conference, he expressed appreciation to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd for the hospitality with which the delegations were received. He also expressed the appreciation of all to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and to the people of sister Saudi Arabia for the fraternal atmosphere of the conference and the excellent manner in which it was organized. He also addressed his appreciation to the general secretary of the council and to its subordinate organs which contributed to drawing up the papers of the conference and drafting its resolutions, and also to the chiefs of staff and the special committee for their prodigious efforts. His highness wished them all continued success in work for the unity of the Gulf.

'Abdallah Bisharah, general secretary of the Arabian States' GCC, then spoke. He greeted their highnesses the minister of defense [words indistinct] for their positive and constructive participation in the work of the conference and the members of the delegations who played a prominent role in its proceedings. He said all had come to Riyadh for one purpose -- to enhance the solidarity in the Gulf. This means realizing defense cooperation among the six members of the council. It also means that responsibilities have increased and worries have broadened in scope since they have gone beyond a local framework into a regional one covering the entire Gulf. Bisharah expressed confidence in the determination of the states and the peoples of the council to achieve this aim and in the prospects for the council's success in its mission. He reiterated the gratitude of all to His Majesty King Khalid, his royal highness the crown prince, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the government and people of sister Saudi Arabia for the excellent arrangements made for the conference.

Report on Press Conference

LD261838 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (SPA) -- His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, described the conference of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers as responsible with regard to its outlook on Gulf security and its concern for all the issues raised.

He said there were no differences of opinion inside the conference; agreement and harmony on all resolutions were characteristics of this conference and the resolutions were adopted unanimously. He stressed that the armed forces in the Gulf Arab states are one force; nothing separates them; they are prepared to serve Arabism and to restore the usurped rights. As long as these forces adhere to the Islamic shari'ah, they will be the real protective umbrella for the Gulf and for those who adhere to Islamic law.

This was said at a press conference given this afternoon by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and by Secretary General of the GCC 'Abdullah Bisharah at the end of the meeting of the defense ministers of the six member states of the council.

Mr Bisharah opened the press conference and expressed satisfaction with the success of the meeting and with the fraternal atmosphere that prevailed in the discussions. He said the feeling was that it was inevitable at this stage to coordinate in the field of defense. He said the cooperation council presented a clearly defined philosophy based on the principles asserted by the leaders of the six states, namely: relying on the sons of the Gulf in ensuring security and stability; not accepting foreign military bases or spheres of influence of the great powers in the region; (?independence) of the Gulf; and devoting all its resources and potentials to the causes of the region and the Arab nation.

Bisharah reiterated that the aim of the council was to safeguard the security and stability of the Gulf with its own forces and without help from anyone, and to insure that all political decisions taken by the Gulf countries will be purely Arab Gulf decisions unaffected by any outside considerations.

He affirmed that the strength and resolve of the Gulf is a strength and resolve for the entire Arab nation, because a weak Gulf would be a liability and not an asset to the nation.

He pointed out that the Gulf defense ministers conference was held to discuss the means to safeguard and protect the principles of the GCC. This includes the principle that citizens of the Gulf shall enjoy peace, stability and reassurance.

Bisharah pointed out that the council's objectives are pan-Arab and its concepts are Arab and Islamic: The Gulf should be strong internally and generous externally.

In conclusion, Bisharah said that at their conference, the ministers of defense laid the first brick in the foundation and forged the tool for the edifice that will safeguard these principles and objectives.

Replying to a question about the present conference's concentration on security aspects after the Gulf summit conference held in Abu Dhabi earlier had concentrated on the political and economic aspects, Bisharah said the basic laws of the council provide for coordination, integration and cooperation among the six member countries in all fields. Thus, he said, the laws do not exclude cooperation within the frameworks of security or defense.

He added the principles embodied in the Abu Dhabi summit conference require security and defense cooperation to safeguard these principles and to ensure there is no gap through which the big powers and foreign powers could infiltrate the area.

Bisharah added: We have not worked to develop security and defense affairs automatically; we have done so because we found there was no alternative to cooperation in matters of security and defense to safeguard the principles embodied in the Abu Dhabi summit conference statement. Otherwise, these principles would be lost.

Bisharah said these principles have been laid down permanently and have affirmed the need for the Gulf to pursue a policy of nonalignment -- a matter which lays greater responsibility on the power of the Gulf itself to protect this policy; otherwise, the Gulf would find itself revolving in another orbit.

After this His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz spoke. He thanked Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah for his ample explanation of the philosophy and aims of Gulf cooperation. He said action in this field, whether economic, social, cultural or military, is not created in a moment, but there is great hope we shall be able to make it as soon as possible into a gigantic entity which imposes itself on the region. This will be done by the determination of its leaders and peoples to complete the march and to shelter under the Islamic shari'ah and to preserve the dignity and sovereignty of the Gulf if it is to become an asset to the Arab and Muslim nation and not a burden on it, and to protect itself by itself under the protection of God.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz categorically denied the idea that the Gulf needs outside protection, either Eastern or Western. He said the peoples of the region are armed with faith; they stand together and cooperate in defending their religion, holy places and heritage. It is a brave nation which has a white history in the struggle for God and in real struggle. These people will be, God willing, the best successors of the best ancestors. His royal highness stressed the strong feeling of the Gulf leaders and peoples that it is time to appear to the friendly world in the form of Arab and Muslim states which meet from six countries and which are linked by the Arabic language and under the umbrella of the Islamic shari'ah. We are all members of the Arab League, he said. We approve of its charter and honor its resolutions; we support the resolutions of the Islamic summit; we work for the consolidation of Islamic solidarity, guided by our Islamic shari'ah, which builds but does not destroy, unites and does not disunite. To us it is ammunition, protection, security and stability.

The minister of defense and aviation and chairman of the Gulf defense ministers' conference expressed his satisfaction with the results of the conference and said that like their colleagues in the political, cultural and other fields, the ministers of defense found no gaps among them through which any enemy seeking to fish in troubled waters can infiltrate. He declared that the conference's decisions are secret because they touch on the sublime interests of these countries and because deeds should precede words.

Asked if the conference discussed the formation of an air defense umbrella for the area, the minister said the decisions of the conference were not taken in a haphazard manner and were preceded by a discussion between the chiefs of staffs who met on the order of the leaders of the GCC member countries. They were also preceded by discussions by the joint Gulf committees. The results of all these discussions were referred in full responsibility and truthfulness to the ministers of defense.

He expressed his hope that the results of this great work will meet with the approval of the leaders of the six GCC member countries and with the appreciation of their peoples.

The true defense umbrella for the Gulf, he said, is adherence to the tenet that "There is no God but God" and that Muhammad is his prophet, applying this tenet and abiding abide by the teachings of Islam.

He added: Gulf preoccupations will not keep us from attending to our duties in respect to Palestine and occupied Jerusalem and retrieval of the usurped Arab rights, because the Arab nation is the mother and the origin of us all. Our work to serve our people in the Gulf and their security is part of our work to serve the Arab world in general and the Islamic world in particular.

Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz affirmed that the planning and general visualization of the external dangers facing the Gulf as a result of Iran's threats have not departed from what is embodied in the resolutions of past Arab summit conferences.

Our meeting, he said, was not prompted by any urgent reasons or unexpected fears. Developments in Bahrain, he added, are, in the eyes of the area's peoples, no more than a childish move which the fraternal state of Bahrain has crushed by its own means.

The members of the subversive group are foreign to the Bahraini people and government. The people and Government of Bahrain constitute one body which serves the independence and sovereignty of Bahrain, and they positively belong to the Gulf area and the Arab world.

He added: We must not condescend to reply to the statements made by some Iranian officials who fail to understand the meaning of responsibility in the rash statements they utter. We have accustomed our people not to resort to altercations and not to be drawn by the propaganda campaigns of our true enemies -- be they international Zionism or imperialism. What has taken place in Bahrain has no importance whatsoever and has no background. It is nothing but a passing thing.

Asked about the idea of setting up a Gulf war industry, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said this matter was raised at the conference of the Gulf defense ministers. He said it is the duty of the technicians and economic experts to contribute effectively toward the Gulf countries' pursuance of such a course. They must offer the necessary studies and researches.

Asked about the propaganda campaigns launched against the GCC by hostile information media, Prince Sultan cited the famous saying that only steel can break steel. He called on the press and information officials in the Gulf and Arab and Islamic countries to halt such sinister intentions and campaigns.

Replying to a question about the formation of specialized military committees within the framework of the GCC to follow up military coordination among the council member countries, Prince Sultan said military committees have been carrying out their work for some years.

Finally, Prince Sultan was asked about the date of the next defense ministers' conference. He replied that no date has been fixed and the matter was left to the council's secretary general to arrange.

GCC PROGRESSING ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

GF231310 Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 21 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is making steady headway towards the goal of economic integration of the six Gulf states on the pattern of European Common Market.

The proposed economic grouping will ensure free movement of capital, freedom of ownership of property and business enterprises, common tariff barriers and a common currency.

Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz, assistant secretary-general of the GCC for economic affairs, who was in Muscat on a three-day visit, told the TIMES on Monday that the economic integration plan of the council calls for the establishment of direct land routes, regular shipping lines and coordination of port activities and domestic air services.

He said the economic agreement signed by the member states in Riyadh in November was due to come into effect in March. It envisages the formulation of a common oil policy among the member states covering exploration, refining, marketing and transportation of oil products.

Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz said that the finance and economic ministers of the GCC states are to meet in Riyadh next Tuesday and Wednesday to formulate policies and regulations for the implementation of the economic agreement.

The GCC official disclosed that the economic integration plan calls for the introduction of a common currency in the region at a later stage. In his view, an active trade relationship was a prerequisite for the establishment of a common currency. He said that currency trade among member states was on a small scale due to lack of commodity for exchange.

Asked about joint ventures to be initiated by the GCC, Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz said a number of publically-owned corporations already existed in member states. The council would, however, encourage joint ventures in the private sector as it believed this sector's role was important, not only in economic development but in the promotion of free enterprise.

He said the GCC ministers of industries who met in Riyadh in October had intitated a study to identify possible import-substituting industries which could be provided with protection in the GCC region. The council would also evolve a common policy for the marketing of the region's oil products to world market on a export quota basis.

Commenting on the recent statement of the GCC secretary-general on the possibility of a common oil policy, Dr al-Quwayz stressed that member countries had many things in common as far as the stability of oil prices and level of demands are concerned. "I do not think we have opposing aspirations. It would not be difficult to draw up a common policy", he commented.

The economic agreement itself spoke of evolving a common policy in exploration, distribution and transportation of oil and gas products. Oil ministers would meet shortly to try to translate the common aspiration into a reality, he added.

Asked about the council's plans to achieve self-sufficiency in food stuffs for the region, he said the council viewed the agriculture sector more important than economic development. The agriculture ministers of the Arab and Gulf states are to meet in March to discuss a common food policy and the increase grain production, development of fisheries, storage facilities and optimum use of water resources.

The council, he said, would actively participate in every plan to achieve food security for the region.

This was Dr Abdallah al-Quwayz' first ever visit as a GCC officer to a council member state. "I selected Oman because of her encouraging and active role in the council," he said.

Discussing the Sultanate's prospects in economic development, Dr al-Quwayz said Oman held a particularly prominent place in the GCC because of its agricultural and fisheries potential. He mentioned date cultivation as an example -- the fruit ripening two months earlier than the harvests in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Dr al-Quwayz also referred to the copper mining and refinery project in Sohar, [which] he said, would greatly aid Oman's fast industrial development.

KUWAIT

AS-SIYASAH CARRIES NOVOSTI REPLY TO EDITOR

GF251942 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 24 Jan 82 pp 1, 12

[Text of letter from Georgiy Savvin, analyst of the Soviet news agency APN, in reply to an editorial by AS-SIYASAH's editor in chief published on 12 January -- date not given; first paragraph is editor's introduction]

[Text] The following letter from Georgiy Savvin in reply to an article by the editor in chief, Ahmad al-Jarallah, published on 12 January, arrived very late, indicating that the APN analyst has referred to officials in the Soviet Union for permission to reply. Thus the reply reflects the views of the ruling authorities in Moscow. In any case, AS-SIYASAH publishes the reply in accordance with free speech, although we do not agree with much of what is said in it.

From the analyst of the Soviet news agency APN, Georgiy Savvin, to the AS-SIYASAH editor in chief.

Dear Mr Ahmad al-Jarallah: While following AS-SIYASAH's interesting and objective comments on the Middle East situation, current affairs and the future of relations between the Arab countries and other peoples, my attention was particularly drawn to your article on Soviet-Arab relations published in AS-SIYASAH on 12 January 1982. I was disturbed by some points in the article.

I should like to say that I do not agree with you on what you said regarding Israel being able to exploit its alliance with the United States for its own interests. To agree to this is to say "it is the tail that wags the dog," and not the contrary. The crux of the problem is U.S. imperialism itself, not Israel's ability to exploit the United States for its own interests. It is the United States that for 30 years has supplied Israel with funds and arms and that is supporting this Zionist state to enable it to strike blows -- on its behalf -- against the national Arab liberation movement and to safeguard long-term U.S. interests in the region. The latest example of this is Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights. The U.S. press has reported that Washington had agreed to the annexation a long time before its implementation. Why? The reason is that the White House failed to persuade Syria to joint the Camp David process and decided to exploit Israel's annexation of the Syrian heights as a means to exert pressure on Syria. We do not need to say that this attempt has failed.

An example of the exaggeration in assessing the opportunities that are made available to Israel in its alliance with the United States and the distortion of the nature of Soviet-Arab relations -- and particularly Soviet-Syrian relations as mentioned in the article -- is the attempt by some parties to talk about the Soviet Union and the United States as though they were similar and equal countries -- despite the fact that each has a totally different direction, like the North Pole and the South Pole. The entire record of the United States in the 20th century is characterized by a persistent desire to dominate the world, persecute other countries, exploit their mineral resources and impose "the American way of life" on them.

As for the Soviet Union, it has never imposed its ideology or way of life on others. Our foreign policy is based on the recognition of the right of all states to run their affairs the way they deem appropriate, without external interference, and on the basis of the territorial integrity of these states, respect for their independence and sovereignty over their natural resources and respect for the conditions of nonaligned countries. The principal mentor of Soviet policies is the state's founder, Vladimir Lenin. These principles are recorded in the Soviet Union's constitution and have become law. They cannot be amended or altered.

Many Arab statesmen have stressed the nature of Soviet-Arab relations that are based on amity and friendship. A statement to this effect was issued by Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah during his visit to Moscow last summer. Let us take another example. For several years the Soviet Union sought to improve its amicable relations with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. There has not been a single complaint from the king of Jordan that the Soviet Union -- the major communist country -- is attempting to interfere in Jordan's internal affairs, or is trying to impose Soviet ideology on that country.

The Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, has affirmed more than once that the Soviet Union has no aggressive intentions in the countries of the Middle East or in any country in the world.

The Soviet Union is a sincere and loyal friend to all the Arab countries and has no ambitions in these countries. As Brezhnev said, the Soviet Union is not seeking to establish military bases on Arab territory. It desires only the achievement of a just and lasting peace with the neighboring Middle East and is anxious only to establish good and amicable relations with all the area countries without exception.

For this reason it is difficult to talk about "the development of strategic relations between the Soviet Union and Syria." On several occasons, Syrian and PLO leaders as well as leaders of a number of Arab countries have stressed that they are seeking to develop comprehensive strategic cooperation with the Soviet Union for mutual interests.

We should like now to refer briefly to Poland. The situation in Poland has deteriorated not because it is a socialist country or a Warsaw Pact member, but because the imperialist powers tried to export counterrevolution to Poland by creating problems inside the country. The fact is that the United States was not alone in this, but also Israel and international Zionist organizations that are hostile to the Arabs have sought to direct the counterrevolution inside Poland through some Solidarity leaders. It is not coincidence that Israeli Government should urge world Zionist organizations to support counter-revolutionaries. The Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, is coordinating this operation.

The United States and Israel are seeking to encourage anti-Polish campaigns and persuade the Arabs that the countries that are linked with the Soviet Union by ties of friendship face the threat of Soviet interference in their internal affairs. All this is taking place to divert the attention of world public opinion from the criminal actions that are committed by the imperialists and Zionists in the Middle East and to provide propaganda for Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights.

I am confident that you, like any patriotic Arab who is concerned for national Arab interests -- will agree that any attempt to sow doubt in the sincere Soviet support for legitimate Arab rights will serve only the interests of Zionism and imperialism.

Yours sincerely, [Signed] Georgiy Savvin, APN analyst

FOREIGN MINISTER ON MEDIATION IN GULF WAR

GF251722 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 24 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister and acting information minister, has called on the "wise men" in Iran to accept a solution to their armed dispute with Iraq in a way that guarantees the rights of both sides.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, he said that Iraq is still trying to end the war. He regretted that the efforts which have been made by various parties to end the war have been fruitless. He added: "We are still exerting efforts to end this war, and we are saddened to see the blood of our brothers being shed." Shaykh Sabah continued: "We hope to see Iran side with us against the common enemy, which is threatening to carry out more aggressions and to usurp more territories after occupying holy Jerusalem." We hope that the "wise men" in Islamic Iran will accept the solution that will preserve the rights of both sides. He also warned that the Zionist enemy is trying to impose its hegemony not only on Arab countries but also on Islamic countries. He said this enemy goes far in its arrogance and threats, being supported by the great imperialist countries. He emphasized that "what harms Iraq harms us." Shaykh Sabah called for a strong Arab move in various fields to confront the difficult challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nation.

He also warned against the current grave stage and said that the Arab nation is being tested by the challenges facing us and that we must firmly confront them or we will be trodden upon.

On the postponed Fes summit, which convened for a few hours last November, Shaykh Sabah said the conference was not as it was described to be but that due to successive events it was necessary for the kings and the presidents to be given enough time to review the subjects on the agenda, particularly the subjects dealing with all internatonal issues. Shaykh Sabah noted that the Fes summit achieved some of its goals and postponed others, waiting for the proper time to adopt the resolutions that will fulfill the Arab nation's goals. He stressed that the conference aims at unamimous resolutions, particularly when dealing with the Arabs' first issue: the Palestinian issue. He added: "The Arab nation has become an important part of the world; our location is stragegic and is affected by other factors. We play a role in events, and the world takes us into account. I do not exaggerate when I say that the role we play in resolving world problems, particularly the economic role, exceeds the role played the the rich, big countries. This role is actually more important and useful because it stems from creed and faith, not from ambition."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said: "At the same time, we are affected by events taking place in the world, whether they are political or economic. He called for more attention to and support for the media, particularly in our region, so that it can play its role perfectly. He also stressed that the media is very important because it enlightens the citizens. He continued: "As the aggressive and ambitious countries use the media to distort facts and deceive people, our duty is to be very careful in explaining facts, unveil plots and uncover lies and deception, particularly at this stage where there is struggle among the superpowers, which possess various destructive weapons, foremost of which is the media weapon they use to serve their goals and interests.

MEDIATION OFFERED IN SYRIAN-JORDAN DISPUTE

GF251633 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its hope that the existing differences between Jordan and Syria will end. Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn has said that his country will mediate between the two countries at the convenient time when the situation is favorable for this mediation.

In a statement published in the UAE today, the Kuwaiti minister called on Arabs to resolve their minor differences and to devote themselves to the main issue.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has received a message from the Syrian Government. The message was delivered by the Syrian ambassador in Kuwait. The Syrian ambassador said the message deals with coodinating the stand of the two countries during the meetings of the UN General Assembly and the Arab League council on the Zionist enemy's decision to annex the occupied Syrian Golan Heights.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM PREVIEWS HAIG AUTONOMY TALKS

LD261210 Kuwait KUNA in English 1100 GMT 26 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jan (KUNA) -- AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Palestinian autonomy: "American Foreign Secretary Gen Haig is coming back to the region tomorrow seeking to activate and inject 'blood' into the veins of the autonomy process.

The American game is playing on this string in order to create an enormous rift among the Palestinians themselves." "In other words, the U.S., through some weary persons intends to abort the Palestinian struggle, and to distort its aims to that it (the U.S.) can accomplish, with Israel, the aim of a complete extermination of the (Palestinian) cause and the aim of hegemony over the region and the Arabs." The editor is referring to the statements attributed to the mayors of Bethlehem and Gaza which were to the effect that the PLO must recognize Israel and which cast doubts on the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

"In simple reality the 'autonomy', according to the Camp David conspiracy, is nothing but a luring translation of 'annexation', meaning the annexation of lands as has happened with the Golan Heights and as is going to happen with south Lebanon."

"If they are avoiding the use of the annexation with regard to the West Bank and Gaza that is because they wanted autonomy to be the true and actual synonym for annexation."

"It clear the American aim, which is an Israeli one, intends of course to murder the Palestinian identity with silent bullets. That is why the U.S. continues to exert pressure, in multi forms and shapes, on the PLO so as to arrive at this aim. The game of splitting the Palestinians of the interior and those outside is certainly one of the most striking of those shapes."

"Washington wants to impose the facts which it has drawn in the first place...those that call for the disappearanceof the Palestinian map and having the Palestinians of the interior work as 'servants' of the Zionist state while having the Palestinians of the outside liquidated and converted into a "crazy problem' in the Arab platform."

AL-WATAN VIEWS EGYPT'S 'RETURN TO ARAB FOLD'

LD261220 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 26 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jan (KUNA) -- AL-WATAN on the return of Egypt to the Arab fold:

"While the majority of Arabs are waiting for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold (probably after April and definitely with the holding of the next expected Arab summit), other Arab parties are calling for the adoption of moderate stances even after the American veto in order to gain more support to the Arab cause.

"On the other hand, a strategy is being planned to divert the attention of the Arab world from the issue of the annexation of Golan to another Israeli aggression on south Lebanon. This attack, according to a well-planned American-Israeli strategy-, aims at creating a new balance in the region in the wake of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

"If the return of Mubarak's Egypt to the Arab fold is meant to be 'serious and dangerous', then Israel would ultimately launch the fatal attack on the Palestinian resistance. But if this return is meant only to 'persuade' others (as Mubarak said) to stop the war and negotiate, then this Egyptian return would find an American-Israeli approval, and the latter would tactically work to lift the responsibility on Mubarak's Egypt that it is "moving actively on the normalization front" or any other responsibilities related to finding any accepted form for the autonomy rule."

SAUDI ARABIA

SOVIET OFFICIAL ON POSSIBILITY OF SAUDI TIES

LD262144 Kuwait KUNA in English 1647 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut, 26 Jan (KUNA) -- A senior Soviet official visiting Lebanon was quoted Tuesday as welcoming the idea of establishing diplomatic relations between Moscow and Saudi Arabia.

Karen Brutents, deputy international relations chief of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, made the announcement in an interview with the leftist daily newspaper AS-SAFIR.

Brutents has been visiting Lebanon at the head of a Central Committee delegation at the invitation of the pro-Moscow Lebanese Communist Party (LCP).

Brutents, in the course of the interview, also expressed Moscow's readiness to improve relations with the new Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The remark coincided with a news report that a special Egyptian delegate, Ashraf Marwan, has recently delivered a confidential letter from Mubarak to Kremlin leaders during an unannounced visit to Moscow which is leading to the return of some Soviet advisors to Egypt.

In the interview, Brutents re-affirmed Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East, saying that it takes into account "interests and legitimate rights of all the parties" concerned in Middle East peace.

On the Soviet-Egyptian relations, Brutents noted that these ties had reached their climax during the regime of the late Egyptian leader Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

"It was not our fault that the relations deteriorated under the regime that followed An-Nasir's," the Soviet official said in an apparent reference to the deterioration which gripped Egyptian-Soviet relationships during the era of the late President Answar-Sadat.

The Soviet official announced that his country is "prepared to develop normal and cordial relations with Egypt on the same principles as in the past -- equality, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's (?internal) affairs."

"This," the Soviet official explained, was expressed in the messages sent by Brezhnev and Prime Minister TIkhonov to the Egyptian leaders.

In answering a question on reports [words indistinct] the possible establishment of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia [words indistinct] states, Brutents said: "Relations between the USSR and Saudi Arabia have [words indistinct]."

"The Soviet Union is always ready for a step like establishing diplomatic ties because it would play a positive role in the development and strengthening of Soviet-Arab cooperation in general," Brutents announced.

"It would also consolidate the joint struggle to eliminate the traces of Israeli aggression and to reach a just settlement of the Middle East problem," he (?said).

The Soviet official [words indistinct] described the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel as "an attempt to force the Arabs to surrender, and to impose American-Israeli hegemony on the region."

AL-MADINAH CRITICIZES SYRIAN PROPAGANDA

JN261758 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] While the defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states are meeting in Riyadh, a Saudi paper, AL-MADINAH, has called upon President Hafiz al-Asad to stop Syrian propaganda campaigns against certain Arab leaders. The paper called on the Syrian Government to abandon its ideological theory.

AL-MADINAH says: In the name of all Arabs, we call upon the Syrian president to preserve Arab unity, because today he needs the support of the Arab states, including Iraq and Jordan.

The Saudi paper confirmed the existence of big maneuverings to undermine Arab solidarity. The paper adds: It is time Arab leaders realized the anxiety caused in the Arab world by their irresponsible behavior.

This was what the Saudi paper published. Observers wonder if it was timed to coincide with the GCC defense ministers' meeting in Riyadh.

ARABS URGED TO RECONSIDER TIES WITH FRANCE

NC262006 Paris AFP in English 1950 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Jan (AFP) -- A Saudi newspaper today called on the Arab world to reconsider relations with France due to its "new attitude hostile to Arabs and favorable to Israel."

In an editorial on French President Francois Mitterrand's plans to visit Israel in March, the daily AL-JAZIRAH suggested that there was an attempt within the governing French Socialist Party "to envenom Franco-Saudi relations" established over the past 20 years.

"The partiality of the Arab states for France was a sign of recognition for its noble attitude to the (Arab) nation" after the Six-Day War with Israel in June 1967, the paper said, warning, "if that attitude were to change, several French interests in the region would be affected."

The paper called on the Arab world to "adopt the Koranic principle of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" with regard to France, which has not stopped supporting Israel, even after its decision to annex the Golan Heights."

(In Paris today, Saudi Ambassador to France Jamil al-Hujaylan said after a meeting with Mr Mitterrand that an incident sparked by a recent statement by French presidential advisor Jacques Attali criticizing the judicial system of some Arab states was "short-lived but regrettable."

(He said, however, that Franco-Saudi relations were too solid to allow the incident to interfere with them.

(Saudi Arabia currently supplies 50 percent of the French petroleum requirement.)

U.S. SEEN AS PARTNER IN ISRAELI 'CRIMES'

PM200827 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 15 Jan 82 p 1

['Aziz Diya' article: "What Is Required at Arab and International Levels"]

[Excerpts] The right of veto which the United States does not hesitate to use against any Security Council resolution in favor of a clear Arab right has become a dirty game which the United States no longer feels embarrassed to play as long as this achieves the Israeli enemy's desire to flout all international customs and laws.

What is most astonishing about the U.S. conduct is that it resorts to the use of such a right only to support the breach of law, the violation of custom and encroachment on clear rights. When the [other] Security Council member states unanimously agree on a certain resolution, this is only on the basis of international law, which is supposed to govern every state recognized by the United Nations and signatory to its Charter. If one of the five powers which enjoy this ridiculous right -- the right of veto -- opposes a Security Council resolution, it means that this power stands against the law, upholds injustice and is involved with the aggressor state which committed the crime.

If we count the number of times the United States has brandished the veto weapon in the face of a Security Council resolution and thus rendered it ineffective and null and void, we will be surprised to find that the international community has not yet realized that the United States is a colluding partner in aggression and that its stand is no different from that of the aggressive state, and that therefore it is the right of all the countries signatory to the UN Charter to ask the Security Council to adopt a resolution holding it responsible for the crimes which it was a partner in committing.

What is most astonishing about the U.S. behavior is that it exploits this right of veto in such a cheap manner, to achieve some trivial gains by heralding the news that it will veto a resolution when it is put to the vote. For example, Gen Alexander Haig, with all his status and medals and his State Department, went to the Israeli enemy Ambassador Ephraim Evron on Monday, 4 January 1982, to inform him that the United States would oppose any resolution imposing sanctions on Israel. This was the good news that the general broke to the ambassador when the latter asked him what the United States would do when Syria and its Arab allies asked for a resolution imposing sanctions on Israel because of Israel's annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. Not only that, but General Haig also assured him that the United States would not allow the imposition of any sanctions against Israel despite the fact that it is compelled to admit that the annexation is a violation of law.

It is doubtful in any case that the United States will vote for any resolution imposing sanctions on Israel. All that the Arab efforts could lead to would be a resolution denouncing and condemning the Israeli action and repeating the demand for the annexation decision to be rescinded. Meanwhile, it is a foregone conclusion that Israel will not change its mind about the resolution.

But this is not only because the United States will brandish the veto weapon. It is also because the Arab countries fail to play a more effective role when resorting to the Security Council. The world expects the Arab countries to realize that their resources and capabilities enable them to play a basic role in confronting every crime committed by Israel, and in which the United States takes part.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON GULF SECURITY, OTHER ISSUES

LD232112 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Riyadh, 23 Jan (SPA) -- His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, has emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to the security of the Arab states in general and the Gulf states in particular. He stated that the forces of Saudi Arabia and of every Gulf state will not hesitate to defend any Arab state, if asked to repulse any foreign attack. His royal highness has denied that Saudi Arabia is thinking of using nuclear energy for military purposes because the dangers outweigh the benefits of such use. He recalled that Saudi Arabia is studying and seeking to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, such as agriculture and economic work, in order to obtain the most modern technology.

His Royal Highness Sultan ibn 'Abd al-Aziz said in a statement to AL-JAZIRAH AL-MASA'IYAH', published today, that the existing Saudi-Pakistani cooperation does not include nuclear energy. The Pakistanis are devoting their own efforts to this field and do not seek to manufacture a nuclear bomb but to use it for economic development purposes.

The minister of defense and aviation made it clear that the real Islamic bomb and the true deterrent power lie in achieving a healthy Islamic society by applying the doctrine of God and the noble example of His prophet and by every Muslim fulfilling his duties and commitments by obeying God and being guided by Him. God's support and backing for Muslims is far better for them than any technical or technological progress.

Commenting on the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] defense ministers' conference scheduled to open in Riyadh on Monday, Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stated that the prime concern of the conference will be the coordination and cooperation on matters connected with teaching at the scientific academies and institutes and the exchange of Gulf youth for military training in order that all may benefit. In addition the conference will discuss the strategic study that will make the Gulf states achieve self-sufficiency and thus secure stability and security for the Gulf in a rational manner.

His royal highness went on to say that the conference agenda can be summed up as security cooperation among the Gulf states by concentrating on personnel, by working for such unity as the states had in the past and by working for unified Gulf action. In this connection his royal highness praised the importance of the economic aspect in linking the peoples. He expressed his belief that the Gulf states' interest in social, economic and educational links will lead to concentration on the defense aspects to protect all these gains.

He announced that a joint mission representing the members of the GCC paid a visit to the Sultanate of Oman in accordance with a decision by the GCC Supreme Council and recommendations of the Gulf states' chiefs of staff. The delegation discussed with the brothers there possible assistance to the Sultanate of Oman to help develop its forces and economy. He mentioned that one part of a report about this matter will be submitted to the forthcoming Gulf summit to be held in Bahrain.

Regarding the recent Iranian subversive plot in Bahrain, the minister of defense and aviation stated that although it was aborted and could have happened in any country, it stirred dormant feelings in the Gulf countries and peoples of the need to cooperate on internal security and put an end to such alien plans.

Asked about Iraq's request that the Arab countries break off relations with Iran, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan replied that this matter is to be decided by the Arab summit and the Arab foreign ministers. He said Saudi Arabia will adhere to their decision on this matter because Saudi Arabia's position must be in harmony with the Arab consensus, which supports any Arab state demanding its rights to territory and waters. His royal highness reiterated his pride in Saudi Arabia's achievements in the defense sphere, especially the AWACS deal and the acquisition of F-15 aircraft on schedule. He stated that these two achievements would not have been possible had it not been for the soundness of the position of this people under the leadership of his majesty the king and his crown prince. He mentioned that the arrival of the F-15's on schedule is normal and shows how a country such as the United States is committed to and honors its promises. His royal highness expressed his pride and that of all the Saudi people in seeing his own pilots flying these fighters and perfectly crossing continents in them. He announced that the rest of the aircraft, God willing, will arrive piloted by Saudi youths who have been training constantly for the past 6 months. Other trainees will be sent for both the AWACS and the F-15's.

His royal highness stressed that the leadership of Saudi Arabia, led by his majesty the King and his crown prince, strives to continue to develop the Saudi Armed Forces. He praised the efforts of the educated Saudi youth who are planning to raise the prestige of the country.

Regarding conscription plans and service to the flag, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan announced that the delay in publishing the plans is caused by the detailed studies being conducted by both the armed forces and the other scientific sectors to produce a project consistent with our development plans.

SUDAN'S NUMAYRI MEETS MUBARAK IN ASWAN

High Level Airport Reception

LD271050 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Aswan, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- President Numayri arrived here this morning 08:45 GMT on a brief visit to Egypt to meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in the context of the meetings between the two presidents on all the joint issues between the two brother countries.

President Numayri was received at the airport by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian senior officials.

Following his arrival, Numayri met with his Egyptian counterpart.

Closed Meeting Continues

JN271038 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Aswan, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- The closed meeting between Presidents Numayri and Mubarak is still in progress at the Aswan airport VIP lounge. The meeting began immediately upon President Numayri's arrival here this morning.

The meeting is being attended by Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, Presidential Press Adviser Muhammad Muhjub Sulayman for the Sudanese side, and by Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz for Egypt.

AN-NAHAR: MUBARAK COMMUNICATES WITH KREMLIN

LD261902 Kuwait KUNA in English 1653 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut, 26 Jan (KUNA) -- The independent Lebanese daily newspaper AN-NAHAR reported Tuesday that an Egyptian delegate has recently delivered a letter to Kremlin leaders from President Husni Mubarak.

The paper, in a Washington date-lined report, quoted unidentified diplomatic sources for the information which said the visit to Moscow took place during the "past few weeks by the Egyptian delegate...who most probably was Ashraf Marwan."

Marwan, an advisor to the late Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, "carried a letter from Mubarak to Soviet leaders...which led to the Egyptian request for the return of some Soviet experts to Egypt," the paper said without further elaboration.

'ALI SEEKS TO REASSURE U.S. ON SOVIET TIES

NC261538 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] London, 26 Jan (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has emphasized that the likely improvement of relations with Moscow will not affect relations with Washington.

In a statement to the British TIMES correspondent in Cairo which the paper publishes today, 'Ali describes Egypt's relations with the United States as very close and says that it is intended to make them better.

Commenting on what has been published on the return of 16 [as received] Soviet experts to Cairo, 'Ali says that their return will be for a specific period during which the Soviet experts will install some equipment contracted before their expulsion.

AL-AKHBAR UNDERLINES 'ALI ACCOUNT ON SOVIETS

NC270750 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Jan 82

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR sheds light on the statement Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali made to the London TIMES correspondent in Cairo. In his statement, 'Ali stressed that the possible improvement in relations with Moscow will not affect relations with Washington. AL-AKHBAR points to Kamal Hasan 'Ali describing in his statement Egypt's relations with the United States as very close, and that Egypt intends to make these relations better.

MINISTER DENIES SOVIET DAM PRESENCE FINAL

PM271045 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Report from ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Cairo bureau]

[Text] ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Mahir Abaza, Egyptian minister of electricity and energy, that no decision has yet been made regarding the participation of Soviet technicians in the development of the high dam power station.

The minister said that the Soviets have offered to improve the performance of 2 of the high dam's 12 turbines and that negotiations regarding the offer are at present in progress and a decision is expected within the next few days. If Egypt accepts the offer Soviet technicians will participate in repairing two turbines.

The Egyptian electricity and energy minister also said that Soviet experts are excellent and have done their work efficiently. He added: Now we will be happy to have them give us a hand in developing the station and improving its performance.

Two months ago France made some improvements to two turbines. It has also made a fresh offer to improve two more turbines. It has offered Egypt a loan at 3.5 percent interest repayable over 12 years.

The United States will also improve some other turbines and has given Egypt an $80 million grant.

It is a known fact that the Soviets do not give grants. They give loans.

Recent speculation has linked the participation of Soviet technicians in developing the high dam turbines to the possibility of the normalization of Egyptian-Soviet relations.

It has been learned from sources close to the Egyptian Economy Ministry that it is expected that Egyptian cotton will be exported to the Soviet Union effective early this year.

KUWAITI SOURCE CLAIMS EGYPTIAN, LIBYAN CONTACTS

LD261158 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jan (KUNA) -- Despite Cairo's denial, a local newspaper said Tuesday that contacts were underway for restoration of severed relations between Egypt and Libya.

AL-WATAN newspaper said that a Libyan envoy had secretly met with the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, but no details on the outcome of the meeting were given.

This is a second report by a Kuwaiti newspaper on such contacts. Meanwhile, Radio Cairo quoted an official Egyptian source as denying that any contacts between Cairo and Tripoli had taken place and that reports on this subject were unfounded.

AL-WATAN newspaper identified the Libyan official as Qaddaf ad-Dam, head of Libya's intelligence service, and said that the contacts were conducted following a Libyan initiative after the new Egyptian president ordered Egyptian troops pulled back from the borders with the neighbouring Arab country whose relations with Egypt were strained in the days of the former President Anwar as-Sadat.

Further on Contacts

GF261220 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 25 Jan 82 pp 1, 14

[Text] Cairo -- AS-SIYASAH has learned from reliable sources in Cairo that important contacts have been made between Tripoli and Cairo in order to begin a new era in Egyptian-Libyan relations. AS-SIYASAH can assert that negotiations on a number of disputed points are now taking place between Libya and Egypt prior to the restoration of relations between the two countries.

Official Egyptian circles have concealed the negotiations currently taking place between the two countries. However, a senior Egyptian official has informed AS-SIYASAH that announcing the restoration of relations between the two countries will, no doubt, be a great surprise to Arab and international circles as well as to political observers. AS-SIYASAH can assert that a senior Egyptian figure -- who held a senior authoritative position during President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir's term in office and who is close to the Libyan rulers -- is currently mediating to restore normal relations between the two countries. This senior Egyptian figure played an important role in Egyptian politics when President as-Sadat became president of the Egyptian Republic for the first time.

AS-SIYASAH has also learned that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has met with this former Egyptian official on more than one occasion recently. In these meetings, which have not been publicized, the Egyptian president defined Egypt's conditions for restoring relations between the two countries. It has also been learned that there have been telephone contacts between Libyan and Egyptian officials.

It has been learned that Libyan measures concerning the withdrawal of Libyan forces from Chad and from the Libyan-Sudanese border have been implemented by the Libyan side to express the good will requested by Egypt. It has also been decided that Libyan press campaigns against Egypt will be halted. AS-SIYASAH can state that a search is currently underway for an appropriate way to announce the restoration of relations. This is being done in order to maintain Libya's relations with the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which -- seemingly -- have started to crack. The front is expected to collapse completely once the restoration of Egyptian-Libyan relations has been announced.

AS-SIYASAH has also learned that President Husni Mubarak has sent a personal message to President Numayri dealing with this issue in order to coordinate policy between the two countries. It has also been decided that Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah will fly to Sudan tomorrow to discuss Sudanese security measures with Sudanese officials.

It has been decided that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will discuss this step with the countries of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front. He actually discussed the issue with the Algerian president during his recent visit to Algeria.

STATE INFORMATION MINISTER TAKES MEDIA POST

NC261844 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1838 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a presidential decree today stipulating that Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif will be the minister concerned with the radio and television affairs.

MUBARAK SPEAKS OUT IN DER SPIEGEL INTERVIEW

DW260759 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 25 Jan 82 pp 110-116

[Interview by DER SPIEGEL editor Volkhard Windfuhr with President Husni Mubarak in the Cairo Al-'Urubah Palace -- date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr President, you have been in office for just 3 months. Why are you already going to the United States and Europe?

Mubarak: The plan for this visit dates back to the time of the late President as-Sadat. There was an invitation from the American President and similar invitations from France, Germany and Italy.

SPIEGEL: Do you hope that the talks in Washington and in Europe will produce a new impetus for the stalled negotiations on the autonomy of the Palestinians in the areas occupied by Israel?

Mubarak: We will naturally deal with the Mideast situation and the autonomy talks which are still underway. In addition we will discuss our bilateral relations with the United States, particularly our economic and military relations. That is the main aim of the visit.

SPIEGEL: Relations between Egypt and the United States have become very close in recent years. When will the next Egyptian-American maneuvers take place?

Mubarak: Well, I don't know the exact date yet.

SPIEGEL: Aren't such maneuvers a political burden for Egypt? Your critics consider it proof that Egypt is devoting itself to one of the two power blocs.

Mubarak: When we hold joint maneuvers with a country known for its military experience, this is to the advantage of our armed forces. In doing this we do not want to threaten any of our neighbors -- something we have been charged with. We do not lean on any bloc; we treat all states equally.

SPIEGEL: These are slogans from nonaligned times...

Mubarak: We are a founding member of the group of nonaligned nations, a significant movement in the world.

SPIEGEL: The leading protagonists of this movement -- An-Nasir, Nehru, Tito -- are gone. Do you believe in a revival of their policy?

Mubarak: I am certain that the founding members want to reactivate the nonaligned policy. Indeed, in addition to the blocs in the East and in the West, there is still a group of countries which do not want to join blocs.

SPIEGEL: Egypt has not joined a bloc, but...

Mubarak: Never, we will never join one of the two power blocs.

SPIEGEL: Then you should not yield to President Reagan's wish to fight Soviet influence in the Middle East within the framework of "strategic cooperation between the United States and its friends in the Middle East."

Mubarak: I don't think this wish applies to us. I want to state that we have a friendship with the United States as well with many other states, but this does not keep us from being a nonaligned country. We do not want to have spheres of influence of any power blocs in this area.

SPIEGEL: You have had particularly poor relations with a superpower lately, the Soviet Union. Will there be some improvement now?

Mubarak: Relations between two states are not always equally good. If good relations with the Soviet Union return, this will happen on the basis of equality.

SPIEGEL: Then ambassadors will be exchanged again between Cairo and Moscow?

Mubarak: The time must naturally come when ambassadors will return. However, I have not yet dealt with this matter. It will need some time.

SPIEGEL: Could the Soviet Union play a role in the Middle East peace process?

Mubarak: The Soviet Union may play a role in later phases. But at this stage -- prior to our having agreed on the principles of Palestinian autonomy -- increasing the number of those involved will not lead to any results.

SPIEGEL: But you place significance on equal relations with America and the Soviet Union.

Mubarak: We advocate relations on an equal basis not only with the United States and the USSR, but also with other countries. However, this does not mean that our relations with the Soviet Union must be as good as those with the United States.

America is helping me, the Soviet Union is not. I treat both on the basis of equality and I reject special relations between a superpower and a small state. However, if a country supports me more and cooperates more closely with me, relations between that country and me will be logically closer, and vice versa.

SPIEGEL: Do you believe, as As-Sadat did, that the United States actually holds "99 percent of the trump cards" that could solve the Mideast problem?

Mubarak: I can say that the United States has a large number of possibilities to contribute to solving the Mideast problem and that it is also in a position to do so because it supports Israel with everything it has.

SPIEGEL: Nevertheless, America does not seem to have brought enough pressure to bear on Israel, as is shown by the Begin government's behavior. What do you say with regard to the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights in December by Israel?

Mubarak: We were the first to denounce the annexation of the Golan because we are opposed to the annexation by force of any other territory. This is a generally acknowledged principle.

SPIEGEL: But by its action, Israel not only violates this principle but also the Camp David agreements.

Mubarak: It is indeed a direct violation of the Camp David agreements and we will also deal with this during the forthcoming visit.

SPIEGEL: How do you plan to proceed if Israel continues its stubborn policy?

Mubarak: Here you had better ask not only Egypt, because what is at stake concerns Arabs in general. For instance, how has Syria reacted to the problem? Therefore, before asking us, ask Syria what it has done for the Golan. After the Iraqi nuclear reactor was bombed, we denounced this more strongly than anyone else. In this case, the question should be addressed to Iraq.

SPIEGEL: Suppose Israel were to launch a surprise attack against Syria. How would Egypt react?

Mubarak: We will not participate in such wars so long as we are not consulted and so long as no relations exist between us and Syria. How could we let ourselves become involved blindly in such a war under these circumstances?

SPIEGEL: Well, a Joint Arab Defense Agreement still exists ....

Mubarak: That is ink on paper. What is it actually worth? Syria and Iraq are quarrelling with one another and Iran and Iraq are waging war. There are many examples of numerous quarrels and the Joint Arab Defense Agreement is meaningless.

SPIEGEL: Even now Egypt is the subject of strong criticism: Yasir 'Arafat, the head of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, as well as the leaders of the Arab rejectionist front are accusing Egypt of talking about the Palestinians with Israel without a mandate from the Palestinians.

Mubarak: We have not spoken on behalf of the Palestinians in the past, and we are not doing it today. We likewise do not negotiate on details which are the affairs of the Palestinians.

SPIEGEL: Nevertheless, there is the continuing reproach that you have no mandate. Will Egypt some day leave the responsibility for the future of Palestine to the Palestinians?

Mubarak: The subject of all our negotiations is autonomy. The bases of Palestinian autonomy. We are not discussing anything else, because this is not up to us and because we do not have the right to make decisions on the matter. After all, the country involved does not belong to us. We simply want to bring the Palestinians to the beginning of the road by achieving agreement in principle on the Palestinians' autonomy.

SPIEGEL: But autonomy actually means something quite different to Israel. What still gives you hope, that there will be satisfactory results?

Mubarak: I agree with you that there is a great difference of opinion. However, we will continue to negotiate and make every possible effort to arrive at a statement on principle which is acceptable to all concerned. However, we absolutely will not deal with matters that concern the Palestinians exclusively.

SPIEGEL: Then you will actually let the Palestinians participate in shaping their future?

Mubarak: This is a necessity that does not need discussion.

SPIEGEL: Have you been in contact with the Palestinians already?

Mubarak: We have not yet done so, but we have invited the Palestinians for a dialogue.

SPIEGEL: Do you hope that the Palestinians will respond to this invitation?

Mubarak: Wallahi (by God), I hope so. As soon as we start discussing details in the negotiations, they must join in and have their say because this actually is their very own concern. They ought to control and discuss all details because we are not in a position to do so.

SPIEGEL: The autonomy issue is not the only stumbling block with Israel. There is also Jerusalem.

Mubarak: Yes, that is another point at issue. We insist that the inhabitants of Arab east Jerusalem must be entitled to vote just as the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are. During my trip I will explain our point of view to the heads of state and government I meet with.

SPIEGEL: Do you still believe there is an effective European Mideast initiative? According to Paris no such initiative still exists.

Mubarak: Europe carries great weight in the world and we cannot ignore this. This also has an effect on our region. This is also apparent by Europe's participation in the multinational Sinai peacekeeping force. By the way, we insisted on this European commitment because it lends great weight to the current peace process.

SPIEGEL: Even more important is for Jordan to participate in this process.

Mubarak: That is absolutely necessary, absolutely.

SPIEGEL: Nevertheless, King Husayn has so far refused to follow your steps. Do you believe it will be possible for him to participate some day?

Mubarak: King Husayn must enter the process because the West Bank was under his sovereignty until 1967. As soon as the foundations for autonomy are secure, the Palestinians and Jordanians must participate because what will matter then will be details regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the decision on the future of the Palestinians.

SPIEGEL: What do you think of the idea of making autonomy palatable to the Israelis gradually -- for the time being in the Gaza Strip?

Mubarak: President as-Sadat earlier suggested that an autonomy model be tested in the Gaza Strip, but this project is dead. We are now determining the principles of autonomy which are to be utilized simultaneously in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

SPIEGEL: What time frame do you have in mind?

Mubarak: There is no fixed time. It can be 1 month, 2 months or 6 months -- there is no time limit. We tried earlier to link the autonomy negotiations to the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in our peace treaty, but our Israeli brothers rejected this. A firm agreement exists for the withdrawal from the still occupied part of Sinai, but no connection exists at all between the autonomy problem and withdrawal from Sinai.

SPIEGEL: Israeli politicians are still casting doubts on withdrawal from Sinai in late April.

Mubarak: We are fulfilling the commitments outlined in the treaty, and the Israelis are doing the same. I do not think that anybody could still have justified doubts. Immediately after the withdrawal of the Israelis, we will start a number of development projects.

SPIEGEL: Will you make your first visit to Israel before the end of April?

Mubarak: Most likely.

SPIEGEL: Saudi Crown Prince Fahd has presented a plan by which he wants to increase the chances for peace in the Middle East...

Mubarak: The plan is good, but who will implement it? Israel will implement nothing unless it has accepted and signed it first. Israel has signed the Camp David agreement and accepted the respective committments. If Israel is convinced by Fahd's initiative, we will greatly welcome this.

Mubarak: That is inevitable. To make the Fahd Plan work, Israel and the United States would have to agree because they are the two most important elements in the Fahd plan.

SPIEGEL: Is the Fahd Plan too vague for you?

Mubarak: I would not say vague, but the United Nations has adopted a lot of decisions which Israel does not let itself become concerned about. Although the whole world voted for resolutions 242 and 338, Israel does not cooperate. It began to implement decisions only after the Camp David agreement was signed and its commitments were recognized.

SPIEGEL: Where does the PLO fit in this connection? Can you imagine a solution to the Palestinian problem without mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel?

Mubarak: I do not think a solution can be achieved without mutual recognition.

SPIEGEL: Since as-Sadat's death Egypt's chief of state and Egypt's media have abstained from all attacks against Arab states. Do you think this will contribute to reconciliation between Egypt and the other areas?

Mubarak: According to our principles and morals, we do not attack Arab or non-Arab countries. We do not even respond to those attacking us. Whether this will lead to Arab reconciliation is up to the Arabs themselves. Egypt opens the door wide to every one of its Arab brothers -- wide and without restriction.

SPIEGEL: Maybe the Middle East climate will change following Israeli withdrawal from the rest of Sinai so that reconciliation will be facilitated.

Mubarak: I repeat: I always welcome our Arab brothers, but we cannot force them to reconcile with us.

SPIEGEL: Don't you want the headquarters of the Arab League to be back in Cairo again?

Mubarak: If our Arab brothers were to agree to this -- the Arab League building is empty and ready to receive the Arab brothers again.

SPIEGEL: But in the meantime the "League of Arab and Islamic Peoples" exists in Cairo...

Mubarak: We will settle them elsewhere. At any rate the building of the Arab League will remain empty until the Arabs have decided what is to happen with the League's headquarters in Cairo.

SPIEGEL: Your sole Arab ally, President Numayri of Sudan, fears a Libyan attack or a coup d'etat directed by Libya. Would Egypt be ready to assist him militarily if his regime is threatened?

Mubarak: We support President Numayri and Sudan, but I would hope that Libya would not attack Sudan. They are two Arab countries, after all.

SPIEGEL: This also holds true for Egypt and Libya. No relations exist between the two countries, but rather a state of obvious enmity. Is an outbreak of war between Libya and Egypt possible?

Mubarak: There is no enmity between Libya and Egypt, and there certainly won't be an outbreak of war for the very reason that the Libyans are an Arab people. We do not want to wage war against any of our neighbors. If we are becoming friends with Israel and ban war between us, then it does not make much sense to wage war against a neighboring fraternal Arab country.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, you want to pursue a policy of national reconciliation at home. This is why you released religious dignitaries, such as Muslim leader 'Umar at-Talmasani and Coptic bishops. Will you allow Coptic patriarch Shenuda III to celebrate public mass this Easter?

Mubarak: This question is currently being discussed.

SPIEGEL: What will become of Hasanayn Haykal, who was arrested by As-Sadat and released by you? Will he return to the "AL-AHRAM" editor's office or will be exercise a political function?

Mubarak: He does not desire to return to "AL-AHRAM" or to hold a government position. He is a journalist and wants to remain a journalist.

SPIEGEL: Will you allow the activities of the liberal-conservative WAFD Party again?

Mubarak: For the time being, we do not intend to increase the number of existing parties.

SPIEGEL: Does this decision also apply to the rightist Muslim Brotherhood and the communists?

Mubarak: Communists? We still have the leftist party of the National Progressive Unionist [Grouping] Party, and concerning the Muslim Brotherhood, we are not prepared to tolerate any religious party.

SPIEGEL: How do you intend to master the problem of religious fanaticism?

Mubarak: We are studying this problem now. As soon as we are through, we will see what can be done.

SPIEGEL: Do you consider religious reforms necessary to adapt Islam to the 20th century?

Mubarak: This exactly is part of the considerations emerging within the scope of the mentioned study on all these subjects.

SPIEGEL: Are you going to include Cairo's Al-Azhar Islamic University in this reform process?

Mubarak: Al-Azhar and others will have to contribute their share to the reform.

SPIEGEL: What do you think of the slogan: "Religion is for God, the fatherland for all"?

Mubarak: Belonging to Egypt is the main thing.

SPIEGEL: How many of citizens arrested for political offenses since September last year are still in prison?

Mubarak: Of those arrested at that time?

SPIEGEL: All arrested taken together. How many are still in prison?

Mubarak: There are only a very few.

SPIEGEL: How many? More than a thousand, less than a thousand?

Mubarak: Fewer than a hundred.

SPIEGEL: You told your people that the best way to master the crisis in Egypt was "even more democracy." What do you have in mind in this respect?

Mubarak: Freedom of opinion is safeguarded. But I want to add that we are a developing country to which I can't give U.S. or British-style democracy. There are two or three parties in America and England. These are states with a long experience in democracy, countries where the social structures are different from ours and where the incomes don't vary as much as they do here.

The environment and the atmosphere there are totally different from ours. Democracy must correspond to a people's specific conditions. However, that does not mean that we suppress criticism. Criticism is good for the well-being of the nation; we really welcome it.

SPIEGEL: Since you are saying this, what about the party newspapers, above all those of the opposition?

Mubarak: The opposition will of course get its newspapers back. How else can a party publicize its opinion except through a newspaper? All these newspapers must definitely reappear.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, what in your view is the greatest of all of Egypt's problems?

Mubarak: The economy. We are about to solve this problem. The situation is much better now than it was before and this gives reason for hope.

SPIEGEL: But how are you going to reduce the extreme differences of income and raise the living standard of the masses, for instance?

Mubarak: We have ordered a large number of Egyptians experts to conduct economic studies. Then we will hold a meeting to discuss our country's economic situation and all points in detail.

SPIEGEL: The people have heard from you only few promises regarding their economic future.

Mubarak: I can't make any promises until the studies I mentioned have been carried out.

SPIEGEL: What will be done concretely?

Mubarak: We do not expect to be able to solve our problems by pressing a button. Such things take years. It is important for us to finally start. Once we have arrived at a stable economic policy, this will also have a strong effect on any type of fanaticism and on the discrepancy of incomes and other similar things.

SPIEGEL: Why, do you think, did President as-Sadat designate you, of all persons, as his successor?

Mubarak: That's an embarrassing question. As-Sadat answered it several times in the newspapers. You can read it there.

SPIEGEL: Will you comply with the wish of your late predecessor and establish an Islamic-Jewish place of worship in the Sinai mountains and move his remains there?

Mubarak: We will not move him there...

SPIEGEL: But wasn't that his wish?

Mubarak: Sometimes he wanted to be buried there, but sometimes also in his home village Mit Abu al-Kaum. So we buried him here. Regarding the religious facility, the subject is still being discussed, but I haven't had time to deal with it yet.

SPIEGEL: Although you are still new in office, pleace allow us to ask how long an Egyptian president should stay in office? Is the 6-year legislative period long enough or should it be extended? Or does it depend on circumstances?

Mubarak: If I say, "only for a legislative period," there will be criticism. It probably depends on the circumstances, but I am inclined not to extend the term. Six years should be enough for a president to do something constructive and implement large reforms. Then he should make way for another who will continue the course with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm.

SPIEGEL: Mr President, we thank you for this talk.

PRESIDENT RIDICULES IRANIAN CLAIMS OF VICTORIES

JN261834 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1745 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Jan (INA) -- President Saddam Husayn has described Iranian officials as liars who distort facts. The president added that these officials are practicing a form of lying that must be premeditated.

In a special celebration on the occasion of bestowing medals of valor on a number of fighters, President Saddam Husayn said Iranian officials seem to have been practicing lying in their personal lives for a long time.

President Saddam Husayn was speaking to fighters, while bestowing medals of valor for heroic deeds in the northern sector of the operational theater, about Iranian claims that Iranian forces had scored military gains in this sector. President Saddam Husayn added that the northern operational theater had recently witnessed Iraqi military victories, the retreat of the forces of aggression and oppression and that the Iraqi Army had taught the Persian Army of aggression a lesson in steadfastness, inflicting on them humiliating defeats.

President Saddam Husayn ridiculed the Iranian officials' claims that, had they wanted to destroy the Iraqi Army, they would have destroyed it a long time ago and that they deem it fit not to enter Iraqi territory from now on. The president said: Those who listen to these ignoramuses will come to believe that they are mobilizing their forces at every point on the borders with Iraq waiting for the decision to enter Iraqi territory. President Saddam Husayn added that world public opinion and the Iranian masses are well aware of [word indistinct]. He said Iraq would continue to fight relentlessly until the Tehran rulers admit they are following the wrong course and that practical measures must be adopted to allow everyone to live in his own country in freedom. The Iranian rulers must also refrain from interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries and give up their evil intentions of expansion at the expense of the Arab nation and Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that the Iraqis' will cannot be vanquished and that the Iranians are far from capable of defeating the determination of the Iraqi people, who will form a bulwark with their bodies to confront and repel the designs of the backward and suspect Persian regime.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES

No 592

JN221638 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA) -- In operations over the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed 219 Iranians and destroyed 6 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator and 1 observation post. Communique No 592, issued by the Armed Forces General Command, said that fierce battles took place in the Shush area and that massive losses in life and equipment were inflicted on the enemy. These losses amounted to 188 killed, large numbers wounded and 5 vehicles, 1 excavator and 1 gun destroyed.

The communique said that the military operations took place in the Dezful, Mehran, Khafajiyah [Susangerd] and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab areas, in addition to the Shush area. Iraqi losses were four martyrs in all sectors and one vehicle and three mortars damaged. Following is the text of communique No 592:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With great success and confidence in victory, our bold armed forces continue their just war against the forces of the spiteful Khomeyni clique. Following are the results of the war actions carried out in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. Following are the results of the military activities in the Shush area:

1. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force opposite our positions. A fierce battle, in which all sorts of weapons were used, was fought. The enemy was then forced to retreat and flee, leaving behind 125 killed, large numbers wounded and 3 vehicles and 1 excavator destroyed.
2. A force from one of our units raided an enemy force and hit it with all weapons. A short battle took place and nine enemy troops were killed.
3. One of our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions, killing 54 and destroying 1 gun and 2 vehicles.

B. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in the Dezful area, killing 27.
C. Two killed and one observation post destroyed in the Mehran area.
D. Two killed in the Khafajiyah area.
E. One vehicle destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 219 killed and 6 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator and 1 observation post destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Four martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle and three mortars damaged.

No 593

JN231720 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Communique No 593 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 January 1982]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The sons of Iraq and the Arab nation continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our forward units clashed with an enemy force opposite our positions in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area. A fierce battle raged. Finally the enemy was forced to retreat leaving behind 27 killed, whose bodies still litter no man's land.
B. One of our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration in front of our positions in the Gilan-e Gharb area, forcing it to flee after sustaining nine killed.
C. Seven were killed and one gun destroyed in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd.
D. Seven were killed and two vehicles, two observation posts and three stockpiles of hardware destroyed in the Abadan area.
E. Two were killed and three vehicles destroyed in the Dezful area.
F. Two were killed in the Nowsud area.
G. One was killed and one vehicle destroyed in the Ahvaz area.
H. One tank and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Shush area.
I. One vehicle was destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 55 killed and 1 tank, 1 gun, 7 vehicles, 2 observation posts and stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: Three martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.

AMAL, FATAH CLASHES CONTINUE; RESIDENTS MARCH

NC270736 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Beirut is generally calm in spite of some violations and attempts to plant explosives. Meanwhile, it has been observed that Palestinian Fatah members have set up barricades manned by armed men at the entrance to Sabra Camp, reinforcing them with a rocket launcher and vehicles. A state of alert has also been observed in other camps.

In southern Lebanon, tension continues to prevail in the areas where recent bloody clashes took place between members of the Amal movement and Fatah, the Arab Liberation Front and the Arab Socialist Union. The township of Jwayya was cordoned off by alien armed men carrying military equipment.

When the clashes ceased, the people of Jwayya staged a demonstration denouncing the foreign interference, particularly since members of Fatah had set fire to two houses belonging to Ahmad Sirhan and 'Ali Mahmud, who were Amal members. The people have also called for the replacement of the Senegalese forces. In fact, a patrol of the Netherlands contingent started operating in the Jwayya area.

In As-Saksakiyah, Amal members encircled a Communist Party military base and seized some arms after limited clashes.

Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes continued their overflights in southern Lebanon, reconnoitering the armed Palestinian and leftists movements.

UN RECOVERS ARMS STOLEN FROM SENEGALESE

NC261842 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] This afternoon UN forces retrieved some weapons and equipment stolen from the Senegalese contingent in the (Al-'Alawiyat) area. Fatah announced that its armed men withdrew from Jwayya and that it will return the remaining weapons belonging to the Senegalese contingent tomorrow.

HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETS 24 JAN

JN251648 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] The Higher Coordination Committee held an emergency meeting in south Lebanon yesterday in the presence of Fatah Central Committee member Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Mustafa ad-Dirani in order to deal with the repercussions of the recent incidents in An-Nabatiyah region.

The meeting confirmed the need to implement all previous resolutions adopted by the coordination committee in the south. The committee also took the appropriate security measures to organize action in the coordination committee and other security committees.

It was agreed that all those responsible for the incidents be immediately handed over to the concerned parties in the committee. The participants also condemned all incidents that took place between the various parties within the national ranks and agreed to disrupt all propaganda campaigns which contribute to escalating tension.

All incidents and the accompanying manifestations in An-Nabatiyah region have now completely ended.

Meanwhile, the committee is due to hold its regular meeting in the south soon in order to follow up implementation of its decisions in a way which consolidates the unity of national ranks and safeguards the internal front so as to confront the Zionist enemy.

WALID JUNBLATT DETAILS LEBANESE CRISIS

PM251425 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 19 Jan 82 pp 1, 12

[Akli Hamouni report on press conference given by Lebanese National Movement Chairman Walid Junblatt in Algiers on 18 January]

[Text] The Lebanese question is complex. In recalling this obvious fact, not to say this truism, when speaking to the press yesterday Lebanese National Movement Chairman Walid Junblatt did not wish to err in the direction of stating the obvious. He explained that before the first questions were put to him.

The Movement is defined by its objectives -- among other things -- and by a future projection. However concise it might be, Mr Walid Junblatt's initial statement nonetheless reflects the painful and tragic present that Lebanon has been experiencing for 7 years now.

"What we want," Mr Walid Junblatt said in substance, "Is to reach a solution that includes the aspects we regard as fundamental for Lebanon's unity, cohesion and stability, namely democracy, secularism and socialism."

After thus defining the objective, Mr Walid Junblatt explained why it is vital.

"For 7 years Lebanon has been the victim of a plot aimed at dismembering it and destroying its identity by the completely artificial creation of denominational entities."

"That partitionist plan," the Lebanese National Movement chairman argued, "is a natural extension of Zionist designs and hence of the planned U.S. policy for the region whose clear aim is to weaken the Arab peoples in the Near East."

In Mr Walid Junblatt's view, this is not an isolated action.

He thinks it is part of the idea, now confirmed, of a collection of very specific actions which, at Washington's instigation, includes the Arab East and Maghreb in the same strategy.

"Since the Arab world's central problem," the Lebanese National Movement chairman explained, "is undoubtedly Palestine and the Palestine people's national rights, the United States is trying to take active diversionary measures by creating areas of tension everywhere, particularly in areas where there is extreme sensitivity on this question. One example is Algeria, where the West Sahara problem is being maintained on its borders. Another example is the Iranian-Iraqi conflict.

Mr Walid Junblatt's preliminary statement certainly did not inspire optimism. It was intended to be a cold statement of an existing reality that must be taken into account. This is especially the case, he said, since the year which has just started heralds -- as the present situation confirms -- a stepping up of American-Israeli pressures on the region. This aggravation is the motivation for a consolidation of alliances and more efficient cooperation to contain the inclinations of Washington and Tel Aviv. This is also the reason for Mr Walid Junblatt's visit to our country. "Algeria is a traditional ally of the National Movement and has always supported us in all spheres." Are secret forces not working, precisely to undermine the excellence of these relations, as might be concluded from the assassination of an Algerian diplomat in Beirut last week?

In the absence of complete information, the Lebanese National Movement leader refrained from comment, merely expressing the hope that that incident would not cast a shadow over these relations.

Mr Walid Junblatt then showed the same level-headedness, free from any extreme view of the prospects, when he answered a series of questions relating mainly to the foreign situation and its effects on the Lebanese tragedy.

For instance he highlighted the persistent inconsistency of the French stance which makes it difficult to pass any judgment on it owing to its ambiguity.

"France," Mr Walid Junblatt said, recently stated that it was in favor of the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. But what forces does it actually mean? It ought to have specified that this means the Israeli forces present in southern Lebanon.

"In any case," he added, "France should have an equitable policy which safeguards its interests and takes account of ours."

The Lebanese National Movement leader holds the same position on European participation in the multinational Sinai force.

Mr Walid Junblatt's argument highlighted the same unclear areas which raise serious doubts and conceal a potential for aggravation and explosion.

Whether it be on the annexation of the Golan Heights, which can be expected to be followed by a new series of attacks on Lebanon, or the restoration of Sinai -- "sand" and more sand, the Arab world has plenty of it!" [quotation marks as published] -- the man who is continuing Khalid Junblatt's work will remain within the reasonable limits of the worst, so to speak. "Whether Labor or conservative, Israel will only continue to survive as a state by pursuing a systematic policy of aggression and expansion."

And yet is there really no glimmer of hope for this Lebanon which is being torn apart with almost unparalleled ferocity? For instance is the election of a new head of state in a few months not reason for hope?

"The appointment of a new head of state is not a major event," Mr Walid Junblatt told us; he thinks the essential issue lies in the transition which must be made. But on this point too the Lebanese National Movement leader was cautious. "Rightwing forces with U.S. and Israeli support will sabotage that transition and plunge Lebanon into a new civil war...."

That is why, on the basis of the fact that all Lebanon's problems stem from a pre-established "fascist denominational plan," Mr Walid Junblatt said in conclusion that the union of progressive force and revolutionary movements is the only adequate response.

SAUDI PAPER INTERVIEWS DEFENSE MINISTER TALAS

PM221323 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 17 Jan 82 p 7

[Interview granted by Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas to Khalil at-Taqi in Damascus -- date not given]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive statement to AL-JAZIRAH Syrian Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas affirmed that Syria will not withdraw its surface-to-air missiles in Lebanon because they are part of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon in defense of that territory. He said the purpose of the worldwide uproar created by Israel over the missiles is to justify escalating its aggression against Lebanon and Syria.

The following is text of the statement:

Adherence to the Strategy of People's War

Duty calls upon us to continue to adhere to our strategy. The conflict with the enemy could be resolved in one of two ways: the first is to establish Arab unity among the countries neighboring occupied Palestine and immediately launch struggle against the Zionist enemy, because the usurping enemy will not wait for us to achieve a military superiority over him that could tip the strategic balance, and the second is for the Palestinian fedayeen to launch a war of attrition against the enemy while the neighboring Arab fronts provide them with materiel and moral backing.

Since we cannot achieve a unity of Arabs in the countries neighboring Palestine -- the least we should do -- then we must follow the second path, support the Palestinian revolution without reservation until the end, until the conflict is decided in favor of the Arab nation.

People's War in the Face of Zionist Ambitions

Gen Mustafa Talas, Syrian defense minister and one of the officers who took part in the glorious Ramadan war from his command position in the Syrian Army and in the joint Syrian-Egyptian high command during the war, added:

The Arab nation is today facing a fateful challenge that confronts it with an issue of life or death, a challenge unprecedented in Arab history. If we compare it to the Mongol invasion or Crusader campaigns, we must not forget the great difference between the old challenge and the current one, particularly with regard to the clear objectives of the latter -- which aims at wiping out all signs of Arab life in the area, settling an alien people in place of Arab inhabitants and introducing an alien way of life. Zionism has partially achieved these objectives in the past few years and is still planning and working with perseverance to take over all of the so-called historical Palestinians, as a first stage in extending its power from the Nile to the Euphrates -- something Zionist leaders have never cared to hide. Evidence of this is written over the Knesset entrance: "The Land of Israel From the Euphrates to the Nile."

General Talas continued: In the October war we took the initiative from the enemy, and we had freedom of action. We must remain capable of acting freely in accordance with the dictates of our love for our land, which the Israeli enemy still defiles by occupying cherished parts of it.

Israeli Hatred Directed Against Syria

The Israeli enemy's hatred of us is continuously fanned by the Israeli ruling establishment. They have nothing to talk about except Syria, and anyone listening to official Zionist statements clearly sees their blind hatred for this struggling country.

Syrian Army Is an Army of the Arab Nation

The Syrian Army serves the Arab nation by resisting all attempts aimed against its existence and entity; it has carried out and will continue to carry out the tasks assigned to it in accordance with the guidance of struggling President Hafiz al-Asad.

In sisterly Lebanon we responded to our people's call and sought to stop the bloody massacres. We protected Lebanon against partition and disruption, the basic aims of Zionism.

Syrian Arab forces entered Lebanon, which was a brave inititative. Through this action they rendered noble military service to the cause of the Arab nation by protecting the Palestinian revolution and preserving the unity of its fighting factions, so that they could devote their resources and capabilities to confronting the Zionist forces occupying their national Palestinian soil and achieving their legitimate objectives throughout the Palestinian homeland.

Attempt To Abort the Syrian Task in Lebanon

The racist and hateful Zionist entity tried to create all sorts of reasons that would lead to the failure of our mission in Lebanon, but we lay in wait for the Zionist enemy and aborted all his attempts. We even decided that our heroic eagles should intercept his aircraft every time he tried to attack Lebanese Arabs and the Palestinian resistance. Our fighter planes often engaged enemy planes, prevented them from reaching their targets and shot down several of them. It is natural that we should continue with our plan until complete stability is restored in Lebanon and the lawful government assumes its natural role.

Syrian Missiles Remaining in Al-Biqa'

Speaking to AL-JAZIRAH regarding the issue of Syrian missiles in Al-Biqa', which Israel is trying to exploit in order to achieve its ends, Gen Mustafa Talas said:

The missile formations in Lebanese territory are in fact part of our armed forces there to defend Lebanon. The uproar created by the Zionist enemy is aimed at creating justifications to escalate aggression and carry out his conspiracies against Syria.

The Zionist enemy has tried through threatening statements to dissuade us from strengthening our forces in the face of his repeated attacks, but all his threats have led us to increase our determination and strengthen these forces. This unequivocally proves that our decisions stem from our will and that there is no force on this earth that can compel us to retreat.

What I can say in this regard now is that our missiles will remain so long as Zionist aggression persists. To be more precise, I would say that the will of our missile personnel cannot be crushed; those fighters and all our armed forces, with their glorious Ramadan spirit, will teach the Zionist enemy a new lesson which, God willing, he will not forget.

MAJOR GENERAL AMONG DETAINEES IN COUP PLOT

NC262112 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] According to information received by several embassies in Beirut, those detained in Syria on the charge of carrying out antigovernment activities include a major general who had leadership responsibilities until sharp differences arose between him and Syrian officials. Nothing is yet known about the fate of this officer.

It is now clear that four 'Alawite officers among those who planned the operation against the regime revealed the plot to the intelligence chief, ('Ali Tawbah), 24 hours before zero hour. Their information enabled the authorities to control the situation and mount a large-scale campaign of arrests.

It has also been reported that Syrian Interior Minister Nasir ad-Din Nasir has, over the last 4 days, personally supervised the measures which the authorities have adopted against Muslim Brotherhood members following several clashes in major Syrian cities, particularly Aleppo.

PARTY BRANCH CONDEMNS WEST BANK MAYORS

JN271148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] The Regional Command of the Palestinian organization in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today issued a statement on the capitulatory statements by [Bethlhem Mayor] Ilyas Frayj and [Gaza Mayor] Rashad ash-Shawwa, urging the Palestinian masses to bring to account all traitors and defeatists and to beef up its rallying around the Palestinian national stand and the PLO, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

In its statement, the Palestinian organization in the Ba'th Party lauded the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front states led by its solid nucleus, steadfast and revolutionary Syria, which is firmly facing the imperialist and Zionist Plots.

BRIEFS

CSSR, FRENCH ENVOYS -- President Hafiz al-Asad this morning received Dusan Ulcak and Henri Servant, who successively presented their credentials as the CSSR and French ambassadors to Syria. [Text] [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Jan 82 JN]

PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR -- President Hafiz al-Asad received this morning (Abas) Ahmad Khan, who presented his credentials as Pakistani ambassador in Damascus. [Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Jan 82 JN]

COALITION DEFEATS ALIGNMENT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

TA261455 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1410 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Report from Knesset on 26 January voting on opposition's motion of no-confidence by Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori -- live]

[Excerpts] It appears that the counting was done during the voting: 55 against, 52 in favor, that is 107 Knesset members who voted on the no-confidence motion; 13 Knesset members were absent. As far as I can tell, the agreement on offsetting votes signed by the Likud and the Alignment was honored and nobody violated this agreement. Well, the motion of no-confidence in the government submitted by the Alignment faction has been defeated by a majority of 55 coalition Knesset members against 52 opposition members.

Press Comment

TA270843 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0440 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] The two votes, that on the compensation to Yamit evacuees and on the no-confidence motion, which took place in the Knesset yesterday and the day before yesterday, are the central subjects of this morning's editorials.

DAVAR says that contrary to the initial triumphant mood the day before yesterday, when some opposition members believed they would succeed in trapping the Cabinet in an ambush, it became clear yesterday that the sun was shining and that the calculations went askew. The narrow majority of the coalition resued it and the impression of the substantial success on the day before yesterday was diluted by the impression of yesterday's tactical failure. Lessons for the future may be deduced from this regarding the work of the Alignment faction in general and no-confidence motions in particular. Yesterday's vote, however, must not obscure the recognition that the opposition is proposing a better way to legislate the solution of a problem the government managed only to exacerbate during the last 3 years.

HATZOFE writes that the Alignment's parliamentary exercise should also teach the coalition members a lesson. They must be aware of the fact the Cabinet coalition's parliamentary basis is very narrow indeed. If they want the coalition to be maintained, and not suddenly entrapped by the Alignment, their duty is to attend the Knesset sessions.

'AL HAMISHMAR says it seems the Likud is seeking an arbitrary lesson from its narrow Knesset majority, and the threat of passing the Norwegian law is again being raised. All these stratagems are meant to enable the Likud to escape a defeat, while distorting the image of the Knesset. The majority consisting of those who favor the evacuation and who oppose it is not a credible majority. [sentence as heard] Morals are not counted with votes but sometimes morals also have weight, especially when the public can properly observe the actions of the government, something that is due to happen sooner or later.

HAMODI'A maintains that in the absence of issues over which the Alignment might demonstrate its activity, it is using the no-confidence weapon in a superfluous and squandering way, thus harming itself more than the Cabinet. The paper points out that the coalition is such that unity during votes is necessary, even if opinions differ. It obligates members of the executive arm, such as Cabinet members and their deputies, to abstain from making statements that contradict government positions. If this trend is not checked, the prediction of the Alignment chairman that the life span of this cabinet is short is liable to be correct.

HA'ARETZ says it is certainly beyond this Cabinet's ability to formulate a Yamit compensation bill that would not impose an intolerable burden on Israel's treasury. Such a bill would be assured a large parliamentary majority, much larger than the majority which precluded the fall of the Cabinet.

The Jerusalem POST writes that it appears the trouble lies in the fact that the soft policy and the attitude toward the movement to stop the Sinai withdrawal in Yamit enjoy strong support from Mr Begin. The paper believes he certainly suffers from a deep guilt complex regarding the evacuation of Sinai and particularly Yamit.

FOREIGN MINISTER DEFINES MEANING OF AUTONOMY

TA270759 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] Last night, on the eve of Alexander Haig's arrival in Israel, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared that Israel had not signed the agreement on the foundation of autonomy as it appears in the Camp David agreements in order to abandon Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

Israel had signed that agreement in order to be able to remain in these districts and to live in them beside the Arab inhabitants.

Appearing at the Economic Club in Jerusalem, Mr Shamir said that just as it was inconceivable that Israel should renege on the commitments it had undertaken to withdraw from all of Sinai, so it was inconceivable that Egypt should now return to its positions before Camp David.

The foreign minister stated that Egypt would have to honor its signature on the Camp David agreement, which says that the solution to the Palestinian problem is autonomy, and no other solution. "No power in the world will sever us from these areas," Mr Shamir declared, adding that from Israel's viewpoint, the only solution to the needs of the Arab population living in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is the foundation of autonomy.

The foreign minister dwelt on the pain involved in the completion of the withdrawal from Sinai and stated that this suffering is felt by the entire nation, not only by the inhabitants living in the Yamit district. Mr Shamir called on the inhabitants of Yamit not to forget that their evacuation is a result of a democratic decision that cannot be retracted under the current political conditions. "Do not turn your pain into destructive hysteria which could undermine the foundations of our life," Mr Shamir said. He also stressed that by returning Sinai to Egypt, Israel was returning 90 percent of all the territories it conquered in 1967 and by so doing it was giving supreme proof of its desire for peace and its willingness to make sacrifices to obtain peace. Now this onus of proof falls on Egypt and it must contribute its share for the sake of peace, Mr Shamir pointed out.

NO SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS ON AUTONOMY EXPECTED

TA261213 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Text] At this stage of the autonomy negotiations, Israel will not propose any substantial concessions. This is the view emerging in Jerusalem just before U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's upcoming round of talks, which begin tomorrow when he comes to Jerusalem.

Today Prime Minister Menahem Begin will hold consultations with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, Foreign Ministry Yitzhaq Shamir and the head of the Israeli autonomy ministerial team, Dr Yosef Burg, to discuss the upcoming talks with Alexander Haig, slated to begin tomorrow afternoon in Jerusalem. In the course of his 24-hour stay, Haig will hold two meetings with Begin.

Jerusalem believes Israel's room to maneuver and flexibility is limited and that Egypt's position should be examined well before any decision on this matter is made.

Political sources in Jerusalem have said that Egypt has not been showing any signs of flexibility either. On the contrary, there are indications of further digging in the positions expressed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who seems to be influenced by his advisers in believing that a base line should be purused in the autonomy negotiations. The political sources based their reports on information from diplomatic and other sources.

The view in Jerusalem is that the chief proponent of Mubarak's hardline policy, whereby there is no need to rush to reach an agreement on principles with Israel on the establishment of the autonomy, is his adviser Usamahal-Baz.

SHARON BRIEFS KNESSET BODY ON EGYPTIAN VIEWS

TA261157 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1147 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] After the Sinai evacuation Egypt will apply political pressure on Israel but will not seek war on behalf of the Palestinians or on behalf of the territories of Judaea, Samaria and the Golan Heights. This was stated today by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon, who appeared before the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. Our corresponden-Arye Golan reports on the meeting:

Sharon said: The agreement with Egypt will last and will not be violated after April 1982; I saw signs of this during my visit to Egypt. The Egyptians will not sever relations, nor will they seek war, neither over the Palestinian issue nor over the rest of the other occupied Arab lands. Sharon suggested that Israel moderate its declarations and not be occupied by unnecessary chagrin.

Alignment MK Rosolio and Likud Knesset members Lynne and Zeigerman formed an extraordinary coalition when they joined together in a call for the early evacuation of Yamit and demanded that the maintenance of the law should be given priority over any other consideration on this matter. Minister Sharon promised to bring this stand to the attention of the Cabinet.

Alignment MK Yitzhand Rabin again demanded that the government soften its positions in the autonomy negotiations. If autonomy is not agreed on before April 1982, there will be no autonomy agreement at all, Rabin stated. He repeated his view that if the Egyptians do not comply with moderate Israeli proposals it will be necessary to reconsider the entire peace process. The defense minister's reaction: I oppose second thoughts on this issue. However, if I favored this, it would be a very difficult situation in which we would have to rely on a wide national consensus. Rabin soothed him: Do not worry, I am in the minority in my party on this issue.

Finally, MK Zeigerman today demanded that his party, the Likud, remove his colleague David Magen from the committee. Magen said he does not believe in the success of the autonomy talks. MK Zeigerman said: My colleague expresses an opinion which runs counter to the government's positions. This is the second round in the fight between Knesset members Zeigerman and Magen over the removal issue.

MEDIA VIEW PURPOSE OF SECRETARY HAIG'S VISIT

Harif: 'Utterly Unnecessary'

TA261330 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 5

[Yosef Harif commentary: "Alexander Haig's 'Second Time Around'"]

[Text] President Reagan's last letter to Prime Minister Begin, which the latter received last Friday, is undoubtedly a very nice letter. Devoid of formality, it opens with the words "Dear Menahem," and ends with "Yours sincerely, Ron." However, in terms of substance, nothing can be extracted from it. It is dry, factual and lacks content.

All it amounts to is President Reagan's acknowledgement of receipt of Mr Begin's message sent to him a couple of days earlier, stating that both he and Secretary of State Haig are studying the document attached to it -- namely, "the principles for Israel's proposal for the model for full autonomy for the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el -- the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, a self-administration authority (administrative council)" -- and that when he comes to Israel, Mr Haig (scheduled to arrive here tomorrow, Wednesday) will discuss with the prime minister, on behalf of the U.S. President, various issues pertaining to that document.

This is all in terms of content, from which it is obviously difficult to deduce what President Reagan and Alexander Haig have meanwhile managed to learn from the Israeli document, or what proposals Secretary Haig will bring with him -- on behalf of the President, and actually in his own name, as Reagan wrote -- to extract the autonomy talks from their stalemate, or better, from their nonexistence.

Practically speaking, Secretary of State Haig's visit this week is utterly unnecessary, since if his second visit in 10 days to Jerusalem and Cairo is aimed at demonstrating energetic activity to promote the talks -- or as Haig himself outlined his mission, to finalize or nearly finalize an agreement on the establishment of autonomy before April 1982 -- not only will he not advance the talks through his visit, but the opposite will happen. He will only publicize the complete futility of the talks and will demonstrate that in fact it is actually impossible "to reach an agreement on full autonomy," either before or after April.

Without knowing for certain what kind of magic formulations Mr Haig might bring with him, it is not difficult to guess what these will entail. He will recommend granting the Arabs of east Jerusalem the right to vote for autonomy institutions. He will suggest expanding the legislative powers of the administrative council, and increasing the number of members on that "council" to, say, 40 or 50, as a compromise between the Egyptian demand for 80 members and the Israeli suggestion favoring a 30-member council. Naturally, he will again give thought to one of the focal questions, perhaps the central one: the source of the authority. Israel, it is to be recalled, cites Camp David in maintaining that the source of authority is the military government, whereas the Egyptians claim that the autonomy agreement is itself the source of authority. That means that the administrative council will be entrusted -- as the Egyptians formulated it -- with "all the authorities and areas of responsibility." Thus, in the Egyptian model included in a document they had submitted in the course of the autonomy talks, the administrative council is regarded as "an authority whose powers are derived from its very self...."

In general, Egypt is firm in its stand that as long as the "model for autonomy" does not satisfy the Palestinians, or actually the PLO, and the Arab world, it is impossible to reach an autonomy agreement. Under these circumstances, is there really any point in Mr Haig visiting here?

We are told that during his talks with Prime Minister Begin, Haig decided that this Egyptian "logic" is unacceptable to him. What does it mean that the agreement should satisfy the Palestinians and the Arab world, he mused. In his opinion, the agreement should be between Egypt and Israel (and the United States), and he was even prepared to say this to Egypt.

Good then, let Mr Haig say this to Egypt and see what it says. Perhaps there will be no point at all in raising the views he and President Reagan have reached, for what is the sense of arguing with Israel over this or another clause of the Israeli document, if the Egyptian criteria is that the final product should satisfy Palestinians?

Anyone who believes that under the present circumstances Secretary of State Haig's visit is simply unnecessary virtually reinforces a simple, straightforward retort by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in his talk with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. Mubarak believes that there is no room to resume the talks now. What does he mean by "now?" -- now is when Israel is embroiled in the trauma of the evacuation of the Sinai and cannot afford, even supposing it were ready, to make concessions on the autonomy. It is consequently preferable, Mubarak argues, to resume the autonomy talks after April 1982.

As far as the Egyptian president is concerned, this is sound logic. But the truth is that this is not a question of the date. The question is far deeper and has to do with the nature of the autonomy. If this were not so, why did Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali say this week that "Haig's visit will not bring about a breakthrough?" Some say that 'Ali's statement is but one in a series of tough statements made on autonomy in the last few days by Egyptian personalities, and may perhaps constitute only "an opening position" and that in the course of the talks themselves Egypt might soften. No, there are no indications of this. This is a final position, not an opening one. Moreover, reason would dictate that later -- after April 1982 -- Egypt will be more intransigent, certainly not less intransigent, than it is today, if indeed it wishes to return to "the fold of the Arab nation." Can anyone imagine that a document that is unacceptable to the Palestinians and the Arab world could serve as an admission ticket for Egypt to enter into "the fold of the Arab nation...?"

Furthermore, when the issue is the return to the Arab world, would it not follow then that Saudi Arabia would be more prepared to lend a helping hand to Mubarak's Egypt than, say, Syria, Libya, Iraq or Algeria? Yet what have the "moderate" Saudis said on the eve of Secretary Haig's arrival? That there will not be any progress in the autonomy talks for the simple reason that Egypt cannot determine the nature of the autonomy for the Palestinians, and the Palestinians actually do not want the autonomy at all. What then do they want? After all, even 'Arafat found something interesting in the Saudi Fahd plan, a plan which follows the first stage of the Palestinian charter: turning Judaea, Samaria and Gaza and any territory that is evacuated by Israel into a Palestinian state. (After which thought will be given to the second stage -- involving Ramla, Lod, Yafo, etc....)

When asked what Secretary of State Haig hopes to achieve this time around, a senior minister -- who is supposed to know more than some others -- replied: "I wish I knew...."

It looks as though, with all due respect, even the secretary of state does not know, as far as the autonomy is concerned. This activity demonstrated by Haig, manifest in frequent visits to the area and in shuttling back and forth between Jerusalem and Cairo -- twice in 10 days, has, of course, a logic of its own. But this has nothing to do with autonomy. The Washington policy makers believe they should demonstrate "activity" so as to insure that the transition time until April 1982 is smooth and without further hitches or more Israeli "surprises." Hence, perhaps, the heartwarming caresses in the style of "Dear Menahem -- Yours sincerely, Ron." However, it has nothing at all to do with the autonomy....

It seems as though even Secretary of State Haig himself knows that as far as the autonomy is concerned, this visit is totally redundant.

MA'ARIV Questions Logic

TA271037 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Haig -- For the Second Time"]

[Text] If there is any logic in U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's second visit to the Middle East such a short time after he left here empty-handed, it cannot be seen with the naked eye. Nothing said recently in Cairo and Jerusalem arouses the hope that there has been a change in the positions of the sides regarding autonomy. And no U.S. plan capable of thawing the ice has been formulated.

Egypt still believes that nothing is burning and there need be no link between the autonomy negotiations and the date fixed for the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Furthermore, recent statements by Egyptian leaders have revealed a new trend, the main point of which is self-disqualification regarding the continuation of the autonomy negotiations. Cairo no longer thinks it can decide or commit itself in the name of the Palestinians. It no longer has a position of its own on the autonomy question: Anything decided must be agreed upon and coordinated with the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and perhaps, too, with the other Arab countries.

In other words, the ball is no longer in their court and in order for progress to be possible, a new framework is needed for the talks, one in which the Palestinians will be negotiating partners right now, without trying to first bridge the existing gap between the positions of Israel and Egypt.

This approach apparently originates in a retreat from the Camp David agreements or, at least, because the agreements have been emptied of their contents. In these circumstances the United States cannot propose a compromise plan of its own because the Egyptians would announce that it is not they who are authorized to decide about it, but the Palestinians, and the Palestinians have no one authorized to represent them in the talks.

Alexander Haig will have to cope with this new Egyptian approach and perhaps also with the chill that was occurred in relations between Egypt and the United States. In an interview in the German news weekly DER SPIEGEL published this week, Mubarak spoke about Egypt's intention to return to the neutral camp and refrain from joining any of the blocs organized by the superpowers.

This declaration and the license granted for the return of Soviet experts to Egypt should arouse the thinking of the U.S. secretary of state and he will obviously take advantage of his current visit to clarify whether there is not a consistent link between the Egyptian noncompliance on the autonomy issue and the avowed intention to return to a neutral position.

HA'ARETZ: 'Sincere Effort'

TA270827 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Jan 82 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Those in Jerusalem who negotiate with him see Haig as intending to make a sincere effort to advance the autonomy negotiations. He will tell Israel that it would be better for Israel to reach some sort of an agreement with Egypt -- even only over a small number of issues involving the implementation of autonomy -- before April.

Among the Israelis who are dealing with the autonomy negotiations, there are some who think it is in Israel's interest to reach an understanding with at least the United States on these issues. In contrast, others believe Israel's position must follow the lead of the Egyptian position, and since Cairo is deliberately going to great lengths in its demands in the negotiations, Israel should not show any flexibility. During his talks in Jerusalem, Haig will consult with a group of ministers and officials, and will depart for Egypt tomorrow at noon.

Television: 'A Ray of Hope'

TA261958 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is to come tomorrow for a second round of talks within 2 weeks which will also include a visit to Cairo. In Israel two private talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin are planned for Mr Haig and also talks with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Minister of the Interior Dr Yosef Burg and members of the ministerial committee for the autonomy negotiations. Political correspondent Elimelekh Ram reports on what Jerusalem expects from the visit:

[Ram -- live in studio] Political circles do not expect a thaw in the freeze in the autonomy negotiations after this round of the talks Alexander Haig is to conduct in the area. As far as is known, the secretary of state is not bringing with him crystallized proposals or even new ideas that could get the wheels of the negotiations moving again. The talks Alexander Haig is to conduct in Jerusalem and Cairo are regarded here as a continuation of the talks held 10 days ago. With regard to the results at that time, people in Jerusalem are pointing to declarations made by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and President Mubarak after Haig's previous visit, from which it appears that there has been an additional hardening of the Egyptian position. Both the position regarding Jerusalem and that on the PLO and its incorporation in the negotiations make any attempt to lessen the gap between Israel and Egypt almost impossible.

Political circles here do see a ray of hope in the very fact that the secretary of state is willing to hold a second round of talks. If he had not seen any possibility of getting things moving, they say, he would have avoided coming. If he is coming, he may have some sort of proposal in his briefcase; perhaps summit talks, perhaps formulations that will permit the creation of at least an impression of a positive move of some sort before April. If he does not succeed in this, it is estimated in Jerusalem, Haig will return to Washington and he will not resume his attempts before the withdrawal from Sinai is completed at the end of April.

HA'ARETZ WARNS AGAINST ILLUSION ABOUT U.S.

TA221941 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 82 p 13

['Uzi Benziman commentary: "Without Illusions"]

[Text] The veto imposed early yesterday morning by the United States on the resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, elicited a smile of satisfaction from certain senior officials in Jerusalem. To them the vote clearly proved the speedy improvement in relations between Israel and the United States after the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. The veto appeared to confirm the veracity of the recent campaign of media leaks sponsored by the prime minister and the foreign minister and designed to convince the people of Israel and the world at large that the crisis in relations between the two countries was over and their friendly relations have been restored.

The prime minister, aided by selective leaks from Reagan's note to him and from his own reply to the U.S. President, and the foreign minister, by his quasipublic appearances, strove to depict the current situation as having drawn a line on the low prevailing only a month ago and marking renewed mutual understanding on issues coming up on the agenda in the immediate future. This disguised propaganda campaign sought to convey the following plain lesson: The United States had swallowed the toad of the annexation of the Golan Heights without grave damage having been caused to U.S.-Israeli relations. Meanwhile, the credit side of Israel's balance sheet has been enriched with a substantial asset: the annexed Golan Heights.

But, lo and behold, whoever takes the trouble to scratch off a little of the rosy coating with which Begin and Shamir have painted Israeli-U.S. relations will discover persistent stains and a lingering residue of suspicions and misunderstandings.

The crisis, it will be recalled, began with the prime minister's famous conversation with Ambassador Lewis on 20 December 1981, in which Begin made it clear to the U.S. ambassador that Israel was not a "vassal state" of the United States and that an anti-Semitic wind was blowing in and around Washington. According to reports by Begin's confidants, Ambassador Lewis was stunned by the prime minister's outpouring of wrath and did not even open his mouth. It is known now that Lewis did in fact avail himself of his right of reply and did answer Begin. Among other things, the ambassador emphasized that Prime Minister Begin and Minister Sharon had given President Reagan a pledge (on their visit to Washington in September 1981) that Israel would not surprise the United States after the signing of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. Lewis pointed out that the Golan annexation was an infringement of this pledge. This matter of betrayal of confidence (as seen by the United States) continues to sully relations between the two countries. It has been cropping up in their contacts since 20 December. After Begin's oration to Lewis -- termed a special message from Mr Begin to Secretary of State Alexander Haig -- Shamir received a note from Washington, in which Haig explained the motives behind his government's decision to suspend the memorandum of understanding. David Kimche, director general of the Foreign Ministry, left hurriedly for Washington on a mission of reconciliation.

Kimche was the bearer of a letter of reply from Shamir to Haig. It was a note couched in grave terms. The Israeli foreign minister accused the administration in Washington of paying only lipservice to the idea of peace and of readiness to leave Israel in the lurch. Kimche knew that a note in this vein was not the key to easing the tension in Israeli-U.S. relations. Therefore, he accompanied the official note (which was composed in the Foreign Ministry, but whose final polish was the handiwork of Menahem Begin) with a verbal message of soothing and moderate words, urging the U.S. administration to quickly end the crisis and mend relations with Israel by speeding up the negotiations on autonomy, among other things.

On Kimche's return to Israel, the Foreign Ministry sought to spread the tidings that the crisis in Israel-U.S. relations was dissipating. This trend was pursued when Secretary of State Alexander Haig came to the region. Haig brought a note from Reagan to Begin which, according to the leaks in Jerusalem, was cordial and expressed a U.S. tendency to turn a new leaf in the bilateral relations and set aside the difficulties arising from the annexation of the Golan Heights. Today it is known that Reagan's note was written in a completely different tone. It was not solely a courtesy letter, as Jerusalem would have it, nor was it an amiable introductory letter designed to pave the way for Haig's mediation. Reagan conveyed a political message which, on the one hand, reflects his basically positive approach to Israel and, on the other hand, expresses his indignation about the actions of the Israeli Government as well as his suspiciousness of its intentions. Whoever describes this letter as a sign that the United States has reconciled itself to the annexation of the Golan Heights and is ready to draw a line on the recent past, is, at best, entertaining far-fetched illusions or else, less flatteringly, is deliberately misleading the public.

At the start of his note to Begin, Reagan writes that he wishes to present the recent developments in Israeli-U.S. relations from his point of view. He mentions Begin's definitions of the ties of friendship between them. He stresses his having assumed that the prime minister is cognizant of U.S. commitment to the security and well-being of Israel. And behold, writes Reagan, "certain wines lose their savor when moved from their place of vintage." The president expresses the hope that this distortion does not apply to the relations between the two countries.

Reagan adds that he is perturbed by Foreign Minister Shamir's letter to Secretary of State Haig, which casts doubt on U.S. friendship for Israel. "Our aspiration for peace is not an empty phrase and is not irrelevant," writes the President, citing Shamir's accusations. "Peace is important to us, and it is likewise important for us to see how it is put into effect." The President states that the United States is interested in advancing the autonomy negotiations, but stresses that it is incapable of, nor does it intend to enforce a settlement. Mentioning Begin's tough declaration to Lewis, Reagan writes: "Israel is a friend and not a vassal state" of the United States.

Reagan explicitly refers to the annexation of the Golan Heights stating that the U.S. administration's work has not been facilitated as a result of the extension of Israeli law to the Golan Heights. He emphasizes that the United States was left with no option but to "take the limited step we took" (the allusion is to the suspension of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation). In a tone of rebuke the President writes that Israel's steps have drawn international attention to the status of the Golan Heights -- a development which will intensify the problems of both Israel and the United States. After promising that his representative in the UN Security Council will veto a resolution for sanctions against Israel (as has since actually happened), he expresses his opinion that it behooves Israel to take steps to improve the situation and show consideration in its relations with the United States and "to judge them in a correct light."

Reagan expressed satisfaction with Begin's declaration to Senator Percy that "the era of superfluous rhetoric is behind us." (It is apparently this sentence which inspired the calculated leaks in Jerusalem intimating that Reagan had allegedly written that the era of crisis was already behind the two countries). The President takes positive note of Begin's announcement that Israel will not attack in Lebanon unless it becomes the victim of distinct aggression. He expresses his confidence that this restraint on Israel's part will be helpful to Philip Habib when he resumes his mission in the near future. Reagan declares that the United States will continue to seek a diplomatic solution to the missile crisis in Lebanon. The note concludes with the hope that the spirit of the memorandum of understanding may be revived, and remarks on the need for each government to take the other's position into consideration. "We shall act to repair the damage done," Reagan concludes his letter.

Contrary to the impression that official spokesmen in Jerusalem have tried to create, Haig's visit was not an outstanding success story, either. It is not only that the secretary of state encountered the stubbornness of the Israeli and Egyptian Governments and their unwillingness to meet each other halfway but, in addition, in his talks in Jerusalem he was also exposed to a stream of accusations by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon. In the presence of Haig's aides, Israeli Cabinet ministers and their advisers (a total of about 40 people), Sharon reproached the U.S. administration and accused it of conspiring to back out of the Camp David process. The tone of the defense minister's utterances to Haig shocked the visitors as well as some of the hosts.

As if that were not enough, during his visit Haig also heard Menahem Begin's objections to the text of the announcements of Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands on their joining the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers. That was a major disappointment for Haig, who had previously been given the impression (through contacts between the State Department and officials in Israeli Foreign Ministry) that this problem had been resolved.

Haig will return next week, burdened with doubts as to the prospects of succeeding in his mediation efforts. In Jerusalem he will probably reiterate his recommendations, warnings about the dangers lurking to the peace process in the event of a failure of the autonomy negotiations. (In his talks 2 weeks ago he also spoke of the possibility that failure by Israel and Egypt to fulfill the Camp David accords could create in Cairo a psychological atmosphere that would prepare the ground for a renewed rapprochement between Egypt and the Soviet bloc.) It may be assumed that his Israeli hosts will also hear him repeat the administration's concern about a deterioration in the situation in Lebanon. (Do the Syrian and PLO statements about the firing of missiles on IDF aircraft harbinger intentions of escalation?)

Some people in Jerusalem read the map of relations between Israel and the United States differently from that laid out by official spokesmen. According to informed sources, it would be better to remove the very rosy tint of the spectacles through which official quarters currently view relations between the two countries.

WEST BANK MAYORS REJECT FRAYJ'S STATEMENTS

TA251430 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Text] This afternoon, mayors of Judaea and Samaria issued a communique in which they reject the call of their Bethlehem colleague, Ilyas Frayj, for the PLO to recognize Israel and to join the political process. Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah issued the sharpest announcement in which he termed Frayj's proposal capitulation to Israel and U.S. pressure. According to him both countries should recognize the PLO.

The mayors of Qalqilyah, Tulkarm and Ramallah also believe that Israel should first recognize the PLO.

Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa said that Israel is a fact and it is from a position of strength that it should recognize the PLO. Nevertheless, Rashad ash-Shawwa expressed his doubts whether Israel would do so.

Further Details

TA271218 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 2

[Reports by the correspondent in the West Bank]

[Excerpts] West Bank and Gaza mayors yesterday reacted to the declaration made by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, in which he urged the PLO to recognize Israel. They stated that Israel should first recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Qalqilyah Mayor Amin an-Nasir said: "After they robbed us of our land, established settlements there, put our sons in jails and ignored our rights, should we after all this hurry to recognize them?"

Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf said: "Israel should recognize us Palestinians and accept our conduct. The only political solution acceptable to us is the one that would guarantee the establishment of a PLO-led Palestinian state." Acting Hebron Mayor Mustafa an-Natshah said that Israel should recognize the Palestinians' rights and that the United States should change its policy. Referring to Frayj's remarks that time is not working in the Palestinians' favor, he said that history has proved that time has worked for the Palestinian people and will continue to do so. 'Anabta Mayor Jamil an-Nasir said: "But Begin said he does not need recognition by anyone and that Israel has and will exist even without Palestinian recognition."

The above statements by the West Bank mayors were reported yesterday to correspondents, and will be published this morning in the east Jerusalem press, provided the censor permits their publication. The east Jerusalem papers, notably AL-FAJR and ASH-SHA'B, have in the last few weeks been subject to severe censor scrutiny.

Frayj Clarifies Remarks

TA270915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said his statements regarding a mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel have not been quoted precisely and in full. He claims he sought to describe Israel as a country greedy for land and hostile to peace. Frayj noted he had no intention of altering his recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. He will also continue to obey the resolutions of that organization.

The mayor of Bethlehem is making this statement in an advertisement in east Jerusalem papers. The Beirut press reported last night that the PLO is about to take steps against Ilyas Frayj because of his statements. Earlier, most of his colleagues, mayors in the territories, took exception to his views. Our correspondent remarks that in their statements, the mayors did not disagree with the principle of recognizing Israel, but urged Israel to recognize the PLO before that organization recognizes Israel.

MA'ARIV Report

TA271025 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Jan 82 p 2

[Report by Yosef Pri'el]

[Text] The PLO has again imposed its will on Arab public figures in the territories who made a slight "deviation" from its principles. Twenty-four hours after the mayors of Bethlehem and Gaza, Ilyas Frayj and Rashad ash-Shawwa, had declared their support for a dialogue between the PLO and Israel, the pair retracted this and announced that the PLO was and remains the sole authority for them and that they accept all its decisions.

The rush by the two mayors to retract the position they took 2 days ago is being described as "force of reality" and indicates the amount of pressure put on the pair.

Security sources have reported that this demonstration of weakness was to be expected, because the PLO has a long account to settle with Frayj and Ash-Shawwa and the terrorist organization would remove all their political influence in the areas in which they live if it could.

YEDI'OT COMMENTS ON CLOSER EGYPTIAN-USSR TIES

TA261525 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 9

[Erol Guiney commentary: "Mubarak Is Eyeing Moscow To Expand His Room To Maneuver"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's decision to recall to his country 66 of the 700 Soviet technicians expelled by President as-Sadat last September falls in line with the new Egyptian administration's trend of effecting a gradual normalization of relations with the Soviet Union and other countries, severed in the time of As-Sadat.

This move by Mubarak also fits in with his decision to give precedence to economic measures, and, in fact, the Soviet experts might prove very valuable in maintaining the Aswan Dam turbines and other industrial plants set up by the Soviets.

However, despite Egypt's denials, it looks as though the timing of Cairo's announcement is directly connected with Mubarak's upcoming visit to the United States and various European countries at the end of this month. The implication of Cairo's announcement is that Egypt under Mubarak, albeit close to the West, will from now on conduct a less pro-Western policy than during the times of As-Sadat.

In fact, Egypt will now try to play a more active role in the nonaligned bloc while continuing to receive large-scale military aid from the United States.

"Egypt is not trying to maneuver between East and West, as somemight think," an Egyptian diplomat said yesterday. But Mubarak is certainly not displeased that his country now enjoys more room to maneuver than under As-Sadat.

In his latest interview with West Germany's DER SPIEGEL, Mubarak made it clear that the return of the Soviet technicians to his country is merely another step toward normalizing relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. In principle, the return of the Soviet ambassador to Cairo, Mubarak said in the interview, is similarly unavoidable in the somewhat more distant future.

This development also constitutes a step toward an early signing of a new commercial agreement between the two countries. Such an agreement will increase their trade by 18 to 20 percent compared with last year.

According to one unofficial source, one of Mubarak's objectives in promoting normalization with Moscow is to purchase in the Soviet Union -- at some future date -- spare parts for the Soviet arms still used by the Egyptian Army.

It appears that for technical, financial and other reasons, Mubarak is less eager than As-Sadat to rush into a total replacement of the Soviet military equipment with Western arms. Mubarak's latest moves prove he is navigating the "de-As-Sadatization" process he has launched with great caution.

In his DER SPIEGEL interview, Mubarak also said that in the near future he "can see no possibility that the Soviet Union will play any role at all in the Middle East negotiations even though at some later stage it could play a beneficial role". Thus the Egyptian president wished to avoid embarrassing the United States or Israel, while at the same time wishing to send a message to the Soviet Union that it should not place all its eggs in one basket -- that of Libya, Syria and the other rejectionist countries.

Yet cautious as Mubarak's steps might be, they could supply the Americans with plenty of food for thought. It looks as though Egypt under Mubarak will be, as far as the United States in concerned, an ally that can be relied upon to a lesser degree than during As-Sadat's administration. It is similarly possible that the United States will now find it more difficult to receive "services" in Egypt for its Rapid Deployment Force in the eventuality that it might have to defend the Persian Gulf.

One should point out that the beginning of normalization in Egyptian-Soviet relations has come precisely at the time the United States has been trying to "punish" the Soviet Union for its involvement in Poland, and while the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan is still going on.

From the Soviet Union's point of view, all this merely indicates that Washington and Cairo are no longer on the same wavelength to the extent they were in the days of As-Sadat. In this respect, Begin and Reagan are now closer than Mubarak and Reagan.

At this stage there is nothing in Mubarak's move that would contradict the Camp David accords or justify any change in Israel's stand toward the peace agreement and its commitment to it. At the same time, Mubarak's latest move might enhance our watchfulness. This development in Egypt could naturally constitute a subject for joint Israeli-U.S. examination, if the agreement on strategic cooperation between them were still in effect. Nevertheless, the issue might be reviewed during U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit here this week.

JORDAN MAY SEND TWO BATTALIONS TO BAHRAIN

TA240606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari has learned Jordan's King Husayn discussed with the leader of Bahrain the possibility of sending two Jordanian battalions to Bahrain to protect it from Iranian subversion.

Husayn last night cut short his tour of the Persian Gulf and returned to Amman, apparently due to escalating tension on the Jordanian-Syrian border. This tension was apparently also the reason for a further delay in the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the annexation of the Golan Heights. The Arab ministers will thus convene within 2 weeks.

It has been reported in Beirut that the Soviet chief of staff will soon visit Damascus.

FOREIGN MINISTRY MAPS NEW DIPLOMATIC APPROACH

TA260806 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] In view of the growing diplomatic and information activity of the PLO and the Arab countries in general, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials have concluded that Israel should try to maintain its diplomatic representations in all countries with which it now has diplomatic ties. Our correspondent Abraham Ben-Melekh reports that the Foreign Ministry's new stand on this matter runs counter to the ideas of late Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan:

Arab League offices manned by PLO members are constantly being opened in many of the South American countries. Arab countries, headed by Saudi Arabia, have continually reinforced and extended their diplomatic network. They have now reached the point of opening offices in small country towns. In their reports to the Foreign Ministry, Israeli diplomats stationed in South America have been increasingly warning of a rise in anti-Israeli hostility -- by both leftists and rightists -- and noting that Israeli diplomats do not have the appropriate answer to this anti-Israeli activity.

Recently, the Foreign Ministry has not attached much importance to maintaining Israeli diplomatic presence in distant countries. The result is that in about 20 countries, including Ireland, Iceland, the ROK, Lesotho and Honduras, there are no Israeli diplomats. However, now that Israel is stepping up its activity in various parts of the world, the Foreign Ministry's stand has changed. It has been decided that Israel should maintain diplomatic representation wherever possible. And, indeed, the embassy in Paraguay has recently reopened. The Foreign Ministry now wants to increase its representation in the Caribbean islands and the five small countries there. Thus, the classical conception whereby active diplomatic missions are the basis for cooperation between countries is regaining prevalence in the Foreign Ministry. But one problem remains: the budget. Maintaining one Israeli diplomat overseas costs about $70,000 annually.

POLL CONDUCTED ON CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

TA061221 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Jan 82 p 1

[Text] A public opinion poll conducted by the Dahaf Research Institute's Dr Mina Tzemah indicates that 64 percent of the citizens believe Israel should be prepared to conduct negotiations with anybody that would recognize it.

In a similar poll held in December 1980, before the elections to the 10th Knesset, only 45 percent of the adult Jewish population supported such negotiations.

These views are identical to Mapam's declared political view, namely that Israel should respond to any body recognizing it and wishing to negotiate with it unconditionally. The poll actually included questions that examined whether or not there is public awareness of Mapam's views, and it emerges that some 80 percent of all the interviewees believe they are familiar with Mapam's positions. In the December 1980 poll, the rate of public awareness of Mapam totaled only about 47 percent.

CILSS HEADS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE ON PRAIA MEETING

AB251007 Paris AFP in French 1626 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Praia, 24 Jan (AFP) -- The heads of state of Sahel countries decided to create a special organ responsible for the building of food stockpiling systems, but have allowed time for reflection on the creation of this grain department within the Interstate Committee to Fight the Drought in the Sahel [CILSS].

In their final communique, the five CILSS heads of state indicated that the CILSS coordinating minister should prepare a report to this effect, taking into account the political and judiciary aspects of the decisions.

The project to construct food storage systems follows a study made by the FAO which specifically envisaged the construction of emergency food storage systems at various points within the CILSS -- especially in Cape Verde, Senegal, Mali and Niger. The means and financing of construction, estimated at [figures indistinct] will be discussed at a meeting to be held in Rome in March this year between the Sahel countries and the international organizations concerned.

The fifth biannual conference of the CILSS heads of state took place at Praia this weekend. Those participating included President Aristedes Pereira of Cape Verde, Sir Dawda Jawara of Gambia, Gen Moussa Traore of Mali, Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala of Mauritania, Abdou Diouf of Senegal and the rural development ministers of Upper Volta, Niger and Chad.

The conference decided to change the frequency of the ministerial meeting. Although the organization's constitution provides that the ministers meet twice every year, henceforth they will meet only once annually.

The heads of state also adopted the 1982 budget proposals presented to them by the ministerial council, which met earlier, setting the current budget at 302 million CFA francs.

On this issue, Gen Moussa Traore of Mali, who was chairman of the CILSS for the past 2 years, explained that seven of the member states had to take responsibility for Chad's contributions due to its economic difficulties.

Concerning relations between the Sahel region and the Islamic Conference Organization, the heads of state have charged the current chairman with the responsibility of finding out together with the Islamic Committee for Solidarity With the Sahel Countries the appropriate ways and means of realizing projects responding to the interests and needs of the Sahel countries.

The conference of the Sahel heads of state appointed President Aristedes Pereira of Cape Verde the chairman of 1982-83 and chose Nfamagnama Kone, Malian agriculture minister, as coordinating minister for the same period.

Finally, the conference decided to hold its sixth session in Niamey in January 1984.

Traore Addresses Session

AB251254 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Excerpt] The Fifth Interstate Committee To Fight the Drought in the Sahel [CILSS] ends today in Praia. Five out of the eight heads of state forming the CILSS were present at this summit held in the Cape Verdian capital.

Addressing the session in his capacity as the current CILSS chairman, President Moussa Traore insisted once more on the need for all the people of the Sahel to make concerted efforts to fight the drought and its multiple hazards which are the cause of our grain deficits. Concluding, he reminded that self-sufficiency in food production remains the greatest objective of the CILSS.

ANGOLAN PROPOSES ARUSHA PLAN AT KINSHASA MEETING

AB250923 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1130 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Luanda, 23 Jan (ANGOP) -- Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Venancio de Mourra, who is leading the Angolan delegation to the 38th session of the Committee of Coordination for the Liberation of Africa, in his speech advocated the implementation of the Arusha plan which calls for an increase in political, diplomatic and material assistance to liberation movements.

Venancio de Mourra, at the Kinshasa meeting, denounced the presence of regular South African troops on Angolan territory, in flagrant violation of the principles of sovereignty and integrity of a state which is a member of both the OAU and the United Nations. The implementation of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council as well as acts of destabilization against the People's Republic of Angola are manifested in sabotage, the use of mercenaries and subversion.

Outside the deliberations of the 38th session of the Committee of Coordination for the Liberation of Africa, the Angolan delegation made contacts with other delegations participating in the conference and informed them of the prevailing situation in the southern part of Angola.

At this session of the coordination committee, presided over by Zaire, in its capacity as host country, reports from the executive secretariat on defense, information, administration and finance were heard. Liberation statements were heard from the SWAPO, ANC and the Pan-Africanist Congress.

ALGERIA

FLN HOLDS TALKS WITH TAMBO'S ANC DELEGATION

LD270840 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] The Algerian FLN and the ANC of South Africa stressed the need to intensify the struggle against the forces of Pretoria, which is maneuvering to maintain its racist domination over the peoples of southern Africa and Namibia. After the talks between the two delegations, on the occasion of the visit of Oliver Tambo, chairman of the ANC, to our country, the two parties expressed their satisfaction with the existing relations between the FLN and the ANC of South Africa. They agreed on the need to coordinate their stances and to establish constant consultations on issues of common interest.

LIBYA

EGYPTIAN MILITARY 'MUTINY' IN ALEXANDRIA

LD271218 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] At this very moment, a serious mutiny is taking place at Jiyanklis base at Alexandria. Some military units have moved toward the base in an attempt to end the military mutiny which is still continuing. No other details have been received.

SUDAN REGIME BEGINS 'CAMPAIGN OF ARRESTS'

LD262332 Tripoli JANA in English 1906 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jan (JANA) -- An urgent report from the Sudanese capital has indicated that the regime today began a wide scale campaign of arrests among army personnel and former members of the political organization. Among the detainees are a number of provincial governors and a large number of workers and students. This indicates that the situation in Sudan is heading for grave developments.

A state of paralysis descended on Khartoum and other cities today. The French news agency reported that queueing for petrol reached unprecedented scale because of petrol shortages.

ARAB TRADE ORGANIZATION PROTESTS U.S. POLICIES

LD261522 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] The Arab vocational trade union organization today handed a note of protest to the Belgian ambassador, as the Belgian Embassy looks after U.S. interests in the Jamahiriyah, condemning and denouncing the fascist policy pursued by the U.S. administration against the Arab nation.

The trade union organization saluted the stances of the Great 1 September Revolution in resisting the U.S. imperialist conspiracies which aim at harming the efforts of the Arab nation.

The Arab trade union organization also denounced the Zionist enemy's decision to annex the Golan Heights, reaffirming that this decision is false and null and void. It also denounced the U.S.-Zionist plan in southern Lebanon and the attempts to liquidate the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese National Movement. The organization saluted the stand taken by the Syrian Arab people against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracies.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI ISSUES DECREE RETIRING 22 OFFICERS

JN270936 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 27 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Jan (SUNA) -- President of the Republic, Defense Minister and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Ja'far Numayri issued a decree on sending 22 army officers into retirement. [Words indistinct] Hamid Khalil from all his military offices last Monday.

MENA Correspondent's Report

NC261405 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 26 Jan (MENA) -- A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that a number of senior Sudanese Armed Forces officers have been relieved of their posts and transferred to provisional retirement.

The correspondent also learned that the Sudanese president has been continuing his meetings with senior armed forces officers in the general command building since this morning. The correspondent says that these meetings are expected to result in important decisions which will be issued today or tomorrow, including a decision to appoint a senior officer to the post of first vice president.

ETHIOPIA

MENGISTU SPEAKS AT MEETING IN ASMARA 25 JAN

EA252046 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0617 GMT 25 Jan 82

[Speech by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of Provisional Military Administrative Council and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia and commander in chief of the revolutionary army, at meeting held in assembly hall of Asmara Palace -- live]

[Excerpts] The cause of our backwardness and poverty is not that our country is poor in natural resources. The country has many kinds of minerals. We have fertile soil. We have rich lakes and rivers which can generate power and be used for irrigation. However, we have proof that we have made use of only 2 percent of our potential.

It isn't that our people do not like to work. On the contrary, the Ethiopian people's creativity is known throughout the world. The cause of the problem is the divide-and-rule method of the past rulers of Ethiopia, who made the people of the country fight against each other on a tribal basis.

Although mother Ethiopia gave birth to a revolution to free herself from such a shameful situation, the problems and setbacks have become numerous.

My fellow countrymen, you be the judge. Should we fight illiteracy, unemployment, prostitution or treacherous and secessionist bandits? Should we fight hunger, disease, poverty or internal reactionaries and saboteurs? Should we fight backwardness and underdevelopment or external aggressors.

While the whole world is now making tremendous efforts to move forward, how can we, having such a rich country as Ethiopia, play with our own lives?

Mankind is a creature capable of building and leading its own life. It should think. It should decide. It should discuss with others and should criticize others. Instead of destruction, it should be engaged in construction.

Dear assembly participants and comrades: I mentioned earlier that we have prepared ourselves for the multipurpose popular struggle which is named red star and is meant to alleviate the bitter problems of the people in the Eritrean administrative region. I would like to briefly explain two major sectors -- the economic reconstruction camapign and the campaign to organize the people -- of the multipurpose revolutionary campaign.

The economic campaign is divided into three parts:

First, which is to be implemented urgently and in a short period of time: maintenance work in factories which have been slightly damaged by the bandits, the reorganization of all industries and farms that have been closed by exploiter capitalists and putting them into production by supplying the necessary manpower and structure, putting right all other production units that have been idle due to their inability to import the necessary raw material;

Second: Maintenance of the heavily damaged buildings, transportation facilities, water and electricity supplies, residential houses, schools, hospitals, hotels, etc, which demand less effort and short time to repair;

Third; Rehabilitation of our compatriots who have been displaced as the result of natural calamities and the bandit menace. This includes refugees returning from neighboring countries, those who recant and come to the revolutionary camp from the counterrevolutionary camp, as well as orphans and the disabled;

Fourth: Giving jobs to the unemployed, meaning those in the Eritrean administrative region. This is interconnected with the opening of industries and other development projects;

Fifth: Improvement or alleviation of the problem of food and other commodities, distribution and price rises which was befallen the Eritrean region as the result of the bandit menace, by the joint effort of the Ministry of Domestic Trade and mass organizations in the administrative region. This problem is closely related to the land transportation system which, in turn, is to be closely linked with the peace to be achieved by our popular revolutionary army, in cooperation with the people.

Although the activities to be accomplished in the second part of the reconstruction program are similar to those to be accomplished during the first part of the reconstruction program, they differ by the seriousness of the damage to the facilities to be repaired, the length of time necessary to repair them and the study and money or investment the reconstruction work involves. It is our belief that during this part of the reconstruction program each and every socioeconomic service will be repaired.

The third part of the reconstruction program on the whole is not attached to the special attention given to the particular problem of the Eritrean people. It will concentrate on research and statistical works for the region as part of the broad and national 10-year development plan, which envisages building Ethiopia as a whole.

Honorable participants of the assembly and comrades, I have briefly dealt with our country's major problems and the situation existing here.

To solve the long-standing and intricate problem in the Eritrean administrative region, we will move part of our meager force of trained manpower to this region. We are going to implement this program in this Eritrean region by closing down or halting development projects in other parts of the country and the expense is very great.

At this point, I would like to remind each and every one of my compatriots that all this maximum effort and expense is not to build new development projects or to expand those which we already have, but only to reconstruct those which we had and which have been destroyed by those agents of destruction.

It is not because the bandits have given us peace and a chance to work that we embark upon this reconstruction work, but through the struggle of our revolutionary army.

By organizing the people we mean the establishment of the Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE] structures in the provinces, districts, towns, government offices, production centers, urban and rural localities up to basic structure level, the task of establishing or further strengthening the Eritrean region All-Ethiopia Trade Union, the revolutionary Ethiopian Youth Association and the revolutionary Ethiopian Women's Association, as well as other professional associations, and the speedy implementation of COPWE's earlier programs to this end.

The campaign, in accordance with the resolutions of the second plenary session of the COPWE Central Committee, will concentrate more on the task of organizing the region's peasants and artisans.

As is well known, despite differences in the stages of organizational development and level of consciousness, depending on their environment, with the exception of the peasantry in the Eritrean administrative region, the Ethiopian peasants achieved this opportunity or victory at least 6 years ago.

If we look into the state of peasants' organization and consciousness in the Eritrean region, since the greater part of the region's countryside was controlled by the bandits who launched their invasion and exploited the situation existing before the land nationalization proclamation, it has been impossible to implement the development through the cooperation campaign in the region.

As a result, in large parts of the region, the land nationalization proclamation is not implemented or, for that matter, known, let alone at a comparable level of organization and consciousness of the Eritrean peasantry with that of the peasantry in the rest of Ethiopia.

The Eritrean peasant also suffers from being deprived of the right to share in the gains of the revolution like the other Ethiopian peasants. Since the bandits have used the peasants to get shelter, food and clothing at gunpoint, just as the old feudal gendarmes did, the Eritrean peasant, as our compatriot, has been robbed of his property, freedom and identity and is still suffering.

The organization of the Ethiopian peasantry is a decisive step toward safeguarding the gains of the revolution, self-rule, strengthening the economy and building a socialist system where exploitation doesn't exist. In this connection, since the needs of the Eritrean peasant are no different from those of his compatriots in the rest of the country, the need to be organized, as mentioned above, will also apply to the Eritrean peasant.

However, those imperialist-paid bandits, who are out to dismember the country and stifle the revolution, have chosen this region's peasants as their prime target and deserving of greater efforts if their plan is to succeed. That is why the red star campaign pays special attention to the liberation of the Eritrean peasant.

How are we going to liberate this oppressed peasant from his sufferings in so short a time? The types of activities to be carried out in organizing the peasant are:

1. Before all else, the parasite bandits who are the source of the peasants' sufferings should be wiped out from among the peasants.

2. The peasants, defenseless and helpless in the face of the bandits' ill treatment, as a result of their dispersion, will be assembled from the valleys and gorges and resettled in areas suitable for human life and agricultural development or in areas where many peasants are now living.

3. The peasants will be given necessary technical education, in administration of organizations, political education, military training, and in general consciousness and organization.

4. Depending on their consciousness, responsiveness and cooperation, the peasants will be organized in local, consumers' and producers' peasant associations respectively.

5. Depending on the need, the peasantry will be given arms to defend itself and its property, and if necessary, attack the bandits.

6. To improve the quality and quantity of production to the extent of enabling him to support the region's industrial worker -- his class ally -- the peasant will be given various types of modern farming equipment, selected seeds, improved livestock for breeding, insecticides and fertilizers as well as financial loans and bank services.

7. Peasant organization depends on culture and the physical environment. For example, the highlanders for the most part will be organized for arable farming, while the rest, depending on the environment, will be engaged in livestock farming. Lowlanders for the most part will be organized for modern livestock farming, while the rest will be organized for arable farming. People living on the coast and on the islands will be organized for maritime resource development, mainly fishing.

This will be implemented by regional COPWE and administration; by the political department of the campaign, particularly the organizing department; by the economic development department, particularly the Agriculture Ministry's task force; by the revolutionary army and by the peasant himself. It also needs the concerted efforts of the people of the region and the country as a whole.

Comrades: The implementation of the programs is not as simple as it sounds. Besides the expense and manpower required, opposition to the reconstruction program by those dregs out to bury alive the Eritrean people also make the implementation very difficult.

However, despite all difficulties, if there is willingness and determination, it can be done. This may sound like mere talk today, but we will demonstrate it practically tomorrow. I have reasons for saying this. We have enough experience and well worked out plans and objectives. Moreover, we are prepared to make the sacrifice expected of us.

The decision of the region's peasants regarding their readiness to make the sacrifice which the constructive and blessed task requires is a decisive factor and this should be known.

To remove the obstacles that have prevented the Eritrean masses from benefiting from the fruits of revolution and implementing the reconstruction work in this region, it has become necessary to launch this special multipurpose campaign. The Eritrean region multipurpose revolutionary campaign, known by the name red star, will deal with political, social and economic fields.

The campaign aims at enabling the broad masses living in this part of our country to live in peace, at rehabilitating the destroyed economic structures, at the continuation of the effort to build a new socialist society and at strengthening the working class organizationally and militarily to enable it to defend its rights. This campaign will be implemented through the concerted efforts of the revolutionary government, COPWE, the entire Ethiopian broad masses and the region's working class.

Although the campaign was planned in relation to the existing situation in the region, its implementation requires national attention and support. Therefore, our effort to build a new socialist society on this front of our country where the dear lives of the Ethiopian children have been sacrificed will be a complete success.

As long as we stand for a popular cause, there will be no revolutionary activity which we cannot implement with the full participation of the people because history is made by the people themselves.

If our aim had been to retaliate against the wishes and provocation of the bandits, the people of the administrative region would have faced an extremely horrible situation. But our basic objective and sacrifice is not to achieve military victory over the bandits alone, but also to save the people, to maintain peace and to enable the people to benefit from revolutionary victories. We do not have the slightest doubt that with the full participation of the region's working masses, we will reach our objective.

Beloved Eritrean working masses, peasants, youth, women, elders and patriots who share in mother Ethiopia's prestigious history: All the true sons of Ethiopia have been making sacrifices by sending their beloved, chosen children to stand alongside you, for they cannot rest until the Eritrean region -- the source of Ethiopian civilization and the pride of every Ethiopian -- is completely free of enemies and rebuilt as new.

Even now the Ethiopian people are on your side and will still be so tomorrow. We are also confident that the red star multipurpose revolutionary campaign, which is instrumental to the maintenance of your peace and the intensification of your development, will be successful through the united efforts of you and your allies.

Our campaign is a development campaign to be conducted with the participation of the population. It is a campaign to liberate not only the people, but also the bandits themselves. The campaign will not be lenient toward the diehard antipeople elements. However, it will rescue those who have been misled and abducted to serve the bandits' cause. It will teach them and offers them the last chance to come in peace and stand on the side of the people and history.

Each and every citizen who wants respect for our motherland's unity and borders, and the realization of peace, equality and mutual prosperity, should march forward to the bright future which awaits him, waving the banner of truth.

Whoever claims to be your true son and compatriot and whoever claims to have stood for your well-being and prosperity will be reexamined in this crucial period. From now on, your dispersed family should be assembled. Your destroyed hut should be reconstructed [words indistinct].

Economic, political and social life in Eritrea will develop through our sacrifice. Unity is always our strength. Socialism is the sole path of our development. The people who stand for a true cause and are being led correctly are always victorious. Hence, we will emerge victorious.

ERITREAN FRONT LEADER ANTICIPATES OFFENSIVE

NC260810 Paris AFP in English 0750 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jan (AFP) -- Eritrean secessionist guerrillas in Ethiopia claim to have killed 150 Ethiopian Government troops, wounded 260 others, destroyed armoured vehicles and aircraft and captured considerable quantities of arms and other military equipment in attacks last week.

The secretary-general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), Ramdan Mohamed Nour, told a press conference here that guerrillas had attacked an Ethiopian Army camp near the Eritrean provincial capital of Asmara and also the city's airport, where they destroyed MiG 23 jet fighters, helicopters, cargo planes and part of the control tower.

Mr Nour said the operations were pre-emptive strikes in anticipation of a sixth major offensive by the Ethiopian Army on guerrilla positions, which he predicted would commence this week.

The EPLF leader said the offensive would be strongly backed by South Yemen, Libya and the Soviet Union. He alleged that some 2000 Soviet troops led by four generals and a Libyan brigade were in Gondor district, while South Yemeni MiG 23 squadrons were used for night raids.

Mr Nour also alleged that Libya had contributed eight million dollars to finance the offensive.

As part of the preparations for the offensive he said that four Ethiopian brigades had been deployed in addition to troops already stationed in Eritrea, and repeated earlier charges that gas would be used.

A press statement issued here on Sunday by the rival Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Liberation Forces (ELF-PLF) of Osman Saleh Sabbe also predicted that an Ethiopian offensive would be launched this week after a public meeting in Asmara to be addressed by Ethiopian head of state Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam.

The statement appealed to the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity and the international community to denounce the offensive, which it said would result in large-scale massacres.

KENYA

FORMER GHANAIAN DEFENSE CHIEF ASKS REFERENDUM

AB221428 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Text] Gen Joshua Hamidu, one time Ghana's chief of defense staff, has come out in support of a national government, but he thinks such a government should be decided on a referendum. Speaking to newsmen in Nairobi, General Hamidu, now regional director for Africa of the World Vision International, said he feels some kind of referendum ought to be held by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] because anything forced on the people will not work; and if the national government idea is approved at the referendum, such a government should be for a duration of 2 to 3 years after which political groups should be allowed to function.

General Hamidu said no small group of Ghanaians can solve the country's problems. All Ghanaians will have to come together to solve them. Moreover, the atmosphere of economic instability does not do the country any good.

SOMALIA

MINISTRY ACCUSES ETHIOPIA OF REPEATED AGGRESSION

NC260817 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Mogadishu, 26 Jan (AFP) -- Inhabitants of the areas bordering Ethiopia are fleeing into the interior of Somalia at the rate of 100 a day to escape Ethiopian raids, the Somali Government said last night.

A Foreign Ministry statement accused Ethiopia of repeated aggression against Somali territory, citing as the latest example last week's raid into northern Somalia. The statement said that Ethiopian troops launched an unprovoked attack against the border town of Bohodle, the nearby village of Darkeyn-Geynyo and the district of El-Berde, where they "killed innocent civilians, destroyed buildings and looted properties." Local people forced to move from the areas "adjacent to the defacto border in western Somalia under Abyssinian colonial rule" had become internal refugees inside Somalia, the statement alleged. It accused Ethiopia of "malicious propaganda" to the effect that refugees inside Somali territory were returning to their original homes, in "an attempt to mislead international public opinion."

PARTY SESSION CLOSES; 3-MONTH AMNESTY ANNOUNCED

EA241520 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Excerpts] The secretary general of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party [SRSP] and president of the Somali Democratic Republic, Mohamed Siad Barre, last night closed the fourth session of the SRSP Central Committee here in Mogadishu.

The Central Committee's fourth session discussed in depth the economic, social, political and defense situation.

Somalia fully supports and welcomes any initiatives by any government in search of meaningful peace in the crisis in the Horn of Africa. The Somali Government not only welcomes but accepts any peace proposals that will lead to the achievement of lasting peace in the area and self-determination for the residents of western Somalia. Solving the crisis in the Horn of Africa is the responsibility of all nations in the region.

The Somali Government also will join in international efforts to limit the nuclear arms race in the world.

At the Central Committee's fourth session, the members decided to extend amnesty to all those who have committed crimes against the Somali nation. Some of these people have already fled the country while others are hiding inside Somalia. The amnesty, which takes effect immediately, will run for 3 months. Those who wish to benefit from the amnesty can report at the district, regional and national judicial offices while those in exile can report at Somali missions abroad. Those who do not make use of this national amnesty will have themselves to blame because such cases will be passed on to the national prosecutor general for appropriate action.

UGANDA

NEW CONDITIONS PLACED ON ALL CORRESPONDENTS

AB261706 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Kampala, 26 Jan (AFP) -- Uganda will only allow resident foreign correspondents to work in the country, and these will have get accreditation from the Internal Affairs Ministry as well as the Information Ministry and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the authorities announced today.

Only qualified staff correspondents will be permitted to work in Uganda, and they must have an established office address in Kampala, not in Nairobi (Kenya) or any other neighboring country, Information and Broadcasting Minister David Anyoti said in a prepared statement read at a press conference here.

The authorities have withdrawn the accrediation of a series of journalists working in the country since the overthrow of the Idi Amin regime in 1979, including that last week of Trent O'Keefe, an Australian filing for the British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr Anyoti said Uganda continued to face extreme hostility in the Western press, particularly in the British press.

News agencies which could not maintain permanent correspondents in Kampala could hire Ugandan journalists on a contractual or permanent basis after consultations with the three ministries, the minister said. The new conditions went into force today.

Mr Anyoti denied that the new measures were intended to bar journalists from Uganda: It is just to keep out strangers and freelancers who used to come here while the qualified people stay back in Nairobi filing half their stories from there about Uganda.

GHANA

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES INVASION ALLEGATION

AB261514 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Kwame Amoako commentary]

[Text] The phenomenon of mercenarism has indeed moved from fiction to fact on the African political scene and no African government is free from the menance that mercenaries pose, supported as they are clandestinely by international monopoly capital and agents of foreign powers. Benin, Guinea and Seychelles have all had their turn at attempted invasions and it appears it is now Ghana's turn.

Yesterday the national dailies carried reports of a Nigerian publication which alleged that the United States, Britain and their African allies are planning militarily to overthrow the popular Provisional National Defense Council and call a halt to the Ghanaian revolution. The Embassies of the United States and the High Commissions of Britain and Nigeria have denied these reports.

The truth or otherwise of the allegation is not the point at issue. What is important is for us to inform ourselves of what the enemies of the revolution can and will do to ensure that we do not succeed in building a more just and democratic society. Direct military intervention is only one method, the crudest and most blatant method by which enemies of justice, social equality and true democracy will try to use to keep us in subjugation.

But our enemies can also be subtle. Ghana is neither Gambia nor the CAR where foreign troops can just move in and keep the people down. The enemies know this. They know that the proud and gallant Ghanaian people and their armed forces will resist any invader. It is the more subtle methods of subverting our revolution that we must vigilantly watch out for.

Economic blackade is a method that the enemies will try to use. They will try to starve our people into disaffection against the revolution. They tried it in the June 4 era without success. At the present moment, our neighbors -- Ivory Coast, Togo and Upper Volta -- have closed their borders with us. There are obvious attempts to keep us down.

Another subtle and a more dangerous threat to the revolution will take the form of political destabilization employing all kinds of divisive tools. This method employs the intelligence service of countries whose interests are threatened by the revolution. Through their local stooges, they will spread vicious rumors of bribery, corruption, looting and fictional stories to create mistrust and alarm among our people.

The People's National Party government, trained in these methods by their foreign masters, persistently sought to divide our people by spreading all kinds of rumors and fanning disaffection against our gallant soldiers who now control the affairs of state. We must guard against this. The most obvious and divisive rumors will be those which will seek to exploit the ethnic heterogeneity of our society, especially the cancer of tribalism. The enemies will seek to disunite us by making us turn against one another instead of coming together to fight the enemies and betrayers of justice and democracy.

These subtle attacks on the revolution will not confront us as openly as a military attack and are, therefore, in some respects more dangerous since the enemy will be hiding behind all kinds of masks which may be difficult to unmask. We need to remind ourselves that those who seek to continue to keep us down and exploit us -- the big Western companies and their controllers -- have Ghanaian puppets, people who live off the misery of all of us. They dance to the tune of their master profiteers in the capitals of Washington, London, Rome and Paris.

The threat of foreign political and economic destabilization, therefore, has real supporters and who will work actively within Ghana, spreading lies, rumors and fairy tales. All must be vigilant against the enemies to be.

GUINEA

CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE DELEGATION LEAVES 26 JAN

AB261545 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] After a 1-week stay in our country, the CPSU Central Committee delegation left our capital at 0935 this morning for Moscow on board the regular Aeroflot flight. It was seen off on departure from the Conakry-Gbessia international airport by an offical delegation from our party state headed by Comrade Lansane Diane, member of the National Political Bureau and minister of the people's army.

It will be recalled that the CPSU Central Committee delegation was headed by Comrade G.V. Kolbin, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Georgia.

During its stay in Guinea, the Soviet delegation visited the Foulaya Agricultural Research Institute, the (Kondokro) Institute of Applied Biology and the townhall and (Babona) center in Kindia. The Soviet delegation also visited the Loos Islands, historical places and monuments in the capital and the (Rovoni) Oceanographical Center and had several contacts and discussions with the various organs of the party state, during which experiences were exchanged.

Before leaving for Moscow at 0935 this Tuesday morning, the leader of the Soviet delegation, Comrade G.V. Kolbin made a statement to the press at the VIP lounge of the Conakry-Gbessia international airport. We will give you a report about this statement during our 1945 newscast with the assistance of Mamadou Dia.

ANGOLA

LARA, DELEGATION RETURN 25 JAN FROM USSR

AB261428 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] An Angolan governmental and party delegation which was led to the Soviet Union by Comrade Lucio Lara, member of the Politburo of the MPLA-Labor Party, on a weeklong official and friendly visit returned home yesterday. During the delegation's stay in the Soviet Union, Comrade Lucio Lara signed an agreement on a program of technical, trade and economic cooperation for the years 1981 to 1985 and 1982 to 1990.

MOZAMBIQUE

MINISTER ON FRONTLINE REPLY TO CONTACT GROUP

EA261252 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco on 25 January briefed the ambassadors to Mozambique of Western countries who are members of the so-called contact group on Namibia on the joint reply of the frontline countries to the latest Western proposals on the independence of Namibia, which is under South African colonial rule.

Minister Jose Luis Cabaco later told the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY that the frontline states' position on elections in Namibia is that these elections must be held under a simple and clear system which should express in a genuine manner the wishes of the people of Namibia. Any procedure that might help to achieve this aim, added Cabaco, is acceptable to the frontline states.

This statement by the acting foreign minister accordingly denied baseless reports circulated by Western news agencies, according to which the frontline countries, at their last ministerial meeting, had proposed a single prescribed procedure for elections in Namibia.

CUBAN PARTY DELEGATION ARRIVES ON WORKING VISIT

EA231834 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] A high-ranking Communist Party of Cuba delegation arrived in Maputo this morning on a working visit at the invitation of Frelimo. Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Political Bureau, is leading the delegation. At Mavalane airport, Jorge Risquet told the news media that his delegation is visiting Mozambique with the aim of strengthening relations between the two parties and governments.

Talks between the visiting delegation and Frelimo are expected to begin this afternoon. During its stay in our country, the delegation will meet President Samora Machel and hold a meeting with the Cuban internationalists working in our country.

The delegation was received at the airport by Lt Gen Alberto Chipande, member of the Permanent Political Committee of Frelimo and minister of national defense. Lt Gen Alberto Chipande was accompanied by the secretary of the Central Committee Ideological Department, Jorge Rebelo and Security Minister Jacinto Veloso, who are both members of the Permanent Political Committee of Frelimo.

CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MAPUTO FOR TALKS

EA152024 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 15 Jan 82

[Text] A CPSU delegation arrived in Maputo today to hold talks and exhcnage experience with Frelimo in the field of propaganda and information. The delegation will hold a meeting with Jose Luis Cabaco, a member of the Frelimo Central Committee and minister of information, apart from visiting various information organs.

The Soviet delegation is led by the (?deputy head) of the Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and includes one of the assistants to the general secretary of the party, Leonid Brezhnev.

SAMORA MACHEL MEETS WITH GDR AMBASSADOR

LD201846 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1513 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] Maputo, 20 Jan (ADN) -- The president of Frelimo and of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Samora Machel, expressed deep concern at the confrontation policy of the most aggressive and reactionary circles of imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism. In a talk with GDR Ambassador Johannes Vogel in Maputo on Wednesday, Machel also expressed his full support for the disarmament and peace proposals and actions of the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community. The president was also deeply satisfied at the measures undertaken in the Polish People's Republic to safeguard socialist development. He condemned the U.S. sanctions policy.

During the talk, the GDR ambassador conveyed most cordial greetings from the general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, Erich Honecker. Machel paid tribute to the GDR's constant solidarity support, which he said, is a manifestation of its proletarian internationalism.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO RADIO OUTLINED STANCE ON WESTERN PROPOSALS

EA261244 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 25 Jan 82

[SWAPO program]

[Excerpts] What are the weak points of Resolution 435? According to the explanation of the White House, the resolution cannot be implemented without the full consent and approval of the Pretoria racist regime. For this reason, there must be a constitution for the territory before the peace process takes effect.

First and foremost, SWAPO's position on the new Western proposals is that elections will be held in Namibia to select a constituent assembly which will adopt a constitution for an independent Namibia. The constitution will determine their organization and powers of all levels of the government. Every adult Namibian, irrespective of color, race or sex, will be eligible, without discrimination or fear of intimidation from any source, to vote, campaign and stand for election to the constituent assembly.

Voting would be by secret ballot, with provisions made for those who cannot read or write. The date for the beginning of the electoral campaign, the date for elections, the electoral system, the preparation of voters' roles and other aspects of the electoral procedures will be promptly decided upon, so as to give all political parties and interested persons without regard to their political views, a full and fair opportunity to organize and participate in the electoral process.

Full freedom of speech, assembly, movement and press shall be guaranteed.

The elected constituent assembly will thus formulate the constitution for an independent Namibia in accordance with the principles of the adoption by a two-thirds majority of its total membership.

There will be a declaration of fundamental rights, which will include the right of life, personal liberty and freedom of movement, conscience, expression, press, speech and assembly.

This is SWAPO's position and reply, inasfar as the new Western proposals are concerned.

NUJOMA: RSA POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE MOVED

EA261226 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 25 Jan 82

[SWAPO program]

[Text] Salisbury -- The president of the South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Sam Nujoma, said over the weekend that racist South Africa plans to move political prisoners from Robben Island concentration camp, near Cape Town, to Walvis Bay in Namibia.

In an interview with the Zimbabwean HERALD newspaper, President Nujoma said that apartheid South Africa has not confirmed that the political prisoners are going to Walvis Bay, where a new prison is being built, but has not said where they will be transferred when Robben Island prison is closed, to make way for a naval base. He said the transfer of political prisoners to Walvis Bay in Namibia would be an act of aggression against the Namibian people. Walvis Bay will never be part of racist South Africa.

This is a clear violation of the UN resolution which declared Walvis Bay an integral part of Namibia, the leader of the Namibian revolution said.

Robben Island, which has attracted international notoriety as a place of incarceration for black politicians, holds about 400 prisoners, including the leader of the African National Congress, ANC of South Africa, Comrade Nelson Mandela, and the founder-member of the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO of Namibia, Comrade Herman Toivo Ja Toivo.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA CONVEYS RSA ANSWER TO CONTACT GROUP

LD261544 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] The South African answer to the revised Western constitutional proposals for the independence of South-West Africa Namibia has been handed to the representatives of the Western contact group. The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, handed the South African reply to the five Western representatives in his office in Cape Town this afternoon. This has come after a special Cabinet meeting in Cape Town yesterday and this morning when the South African reply was probably finalized. The South African reply, together with that of SWAPO and the African states which have involved themselves in the issue, will probably be considered at a meeting of the Western powers which is being held at present in Bonn.

FRANCE MIGHT RECONSIDER CONTACT GROUP MEMBERSHIP

LD270240 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 26 Jan 82

[Text] France's new ambassador to South Africa, Mr Francois Marcel Plaisant says that his country would reconsider its position as a member of the Western contact group negotiating South-West African independence should the group prove itself incapable of achieving its set objective. Mr Plaisant today presented his credentials to the South African state president, Mr Marais Viluoen. In a statement after the event, he said that political and ethical differences of value should not be allowed to interfere with the establishment of cultural and economical ties between the two countries. He also pointed out the investment of South African interests in French industry and the country's preference for French-developed technology as examples of the existing close relationship.

ZIMBABWE

MINISTER SAYS STATE OF EMERGENCY TO REMAIN

CA251150 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 20 Jan 82

[Text] The state of emergency has been renewed for a further 6 months from Tuesday next week. The minister of home affairs Comrade Hove told the National Assembly that the security situation in the country had not yet stabilized to the extent that the government would dispense with the state of emergency. He said the consequences of failure to deal with action which threatens the very solid foundations upon which our growing and expanding economy is built are indeed too ghastly to contemplate.

The minister said all effort and investment by the government, the public and private sector and aid donors all over the world would set at naught if the government could not use such powers in these circumstances. He said the emergency was necessary because of the continued unlawful possession of war and warlike equipment and the prevalence of crimes of violence. Comrade Hove said there was a threat caused by Zimbabwe's enemies both within and outside the country. The minister said the government is shortly to embark on a registration campaign to control the number of firearms held by individuals.

RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVELERS WITH PASSPORTS

CA201132 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Holders of Rhodesian and Zimbabwe-Rhodesian passports will not be allowed to travel outside this country carrying these documents as from midnight tomorrow. This was stated today by the Registrar-General Comrade (Chigwedere) in an interview with the ZBC [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation]. He said holders of these passports can exchange them with Zimbabwean travel documents at anytime. Comrade (Chigwedere) said it was not true that passport offices will not receive Rhodesian and Zimbabwe-Rhodesian passports after Thursday this week. He emphasized that no action will be taken against such passport holders.